Chingis Khan
成吉思汗
チンギスハーン
3

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Chingis Khan
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3

Mitsuteru Yokoyama
横山光輝

群狼の巻

Akita Bunko

チンギスハーン 3

横山光輝

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横山光輝（よこやまみつてる）

本名，横山光照。1934年（昭和9年）6月18日、
兵庫県神戸市須磨区に生まれる。
1954年「音無しの剣」でデビュー。
1956年「鉄人28号」で第一線に躍り出て、
1962年「伊賀の影丸」で不動の地位を確立する。
以来、少年、少女から青年誌まで、
時代、歴史ものからSFに到るまで、
あらゆるジャンルの傑作を数多く生みだしている。
1991年「三国志」で
第20回日本漫画家協会賞優秀賞を受賞。
代表作品「鉄人28号」「伊賀の影丸」「バビル2世」
「マーズ」「その名は101」「チンギスハーン」
「あばれ天童」「おてんば天使」「魔法使いサリー」
「三国志」など多数。

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Volume 3
Pack of Wolves

Yokoyama
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Table of Contents

Volume 2

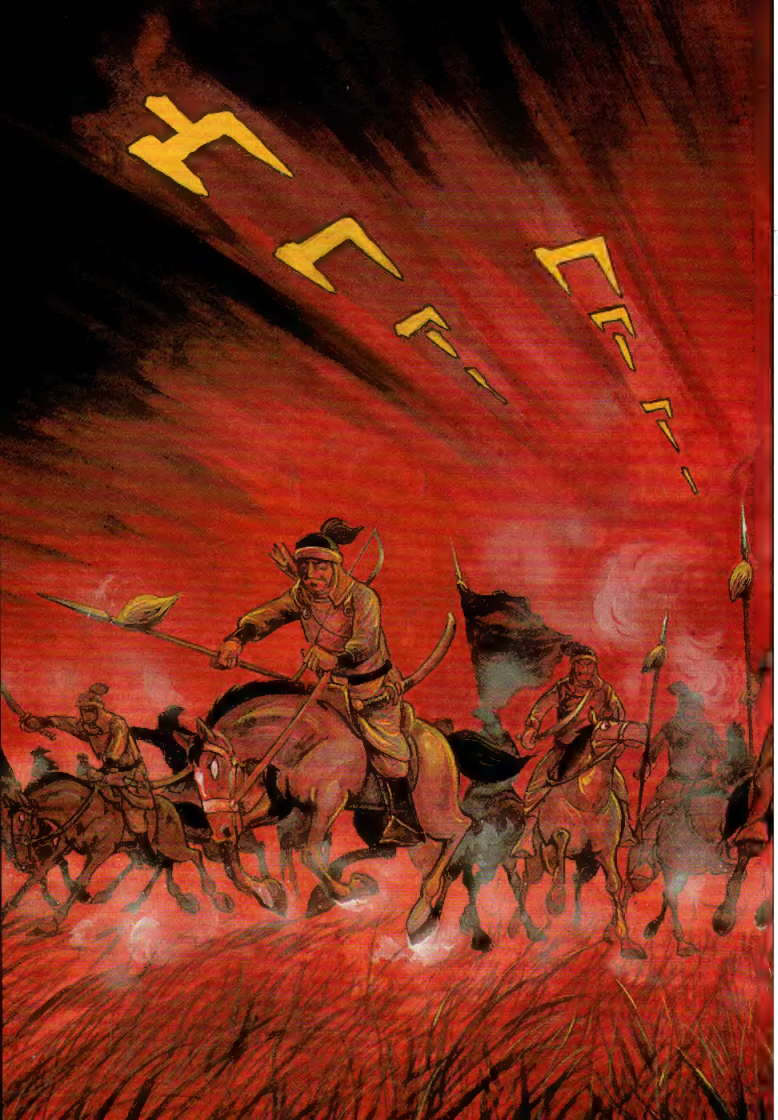
3

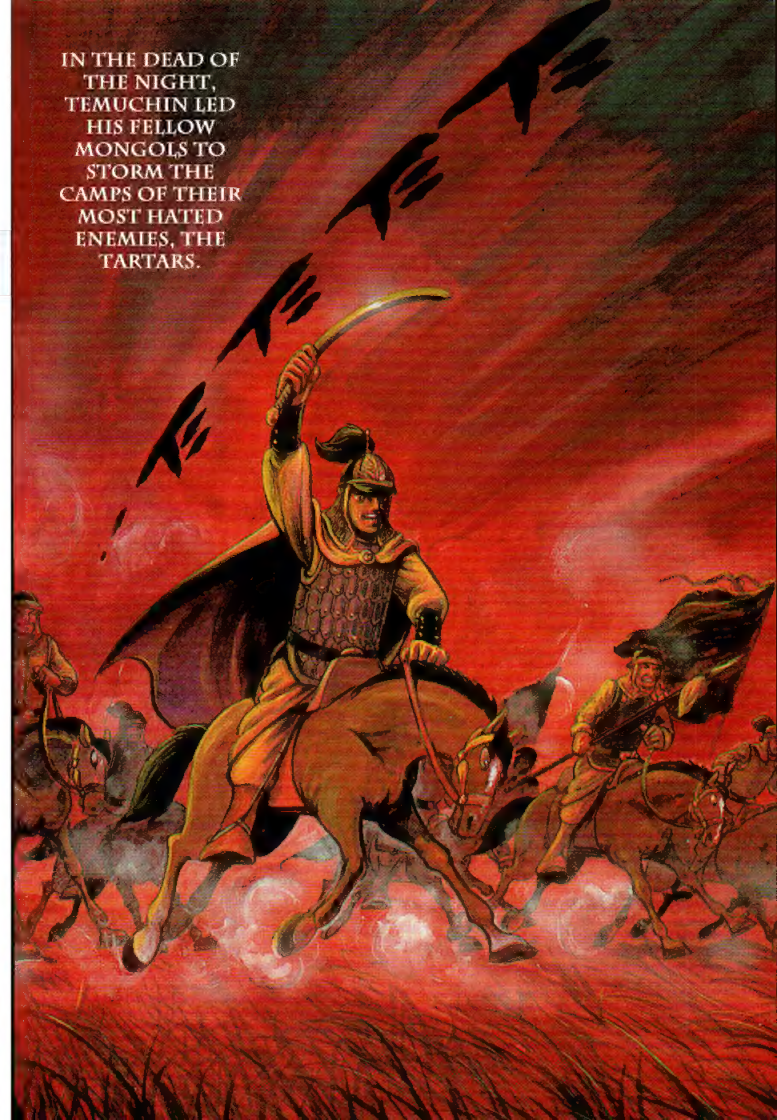
Pack of Wolves

Ch. 1 —— Exterminated Tribe —— 3
Ch. 2 —— Internal Conflict —— 41
Ch. 3 —— Battle of Köyitän —— 63
Ch. 4 —— Great Victory —— 121
Ch. 5 —— Fissure —— 141
Ch. 6 —— Jamuka's Cunning —— 163
Ch. 7 —— Father - Son Anda —— 205
Ch. 8 —— Trap —— 239

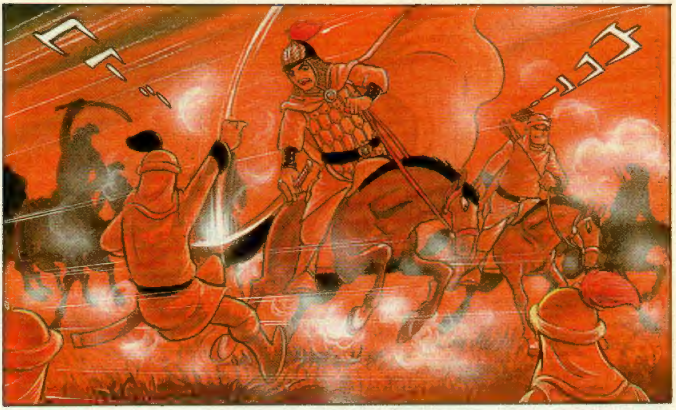
Translated by Hox
Edited by Happyscans

Exterminated Tribe



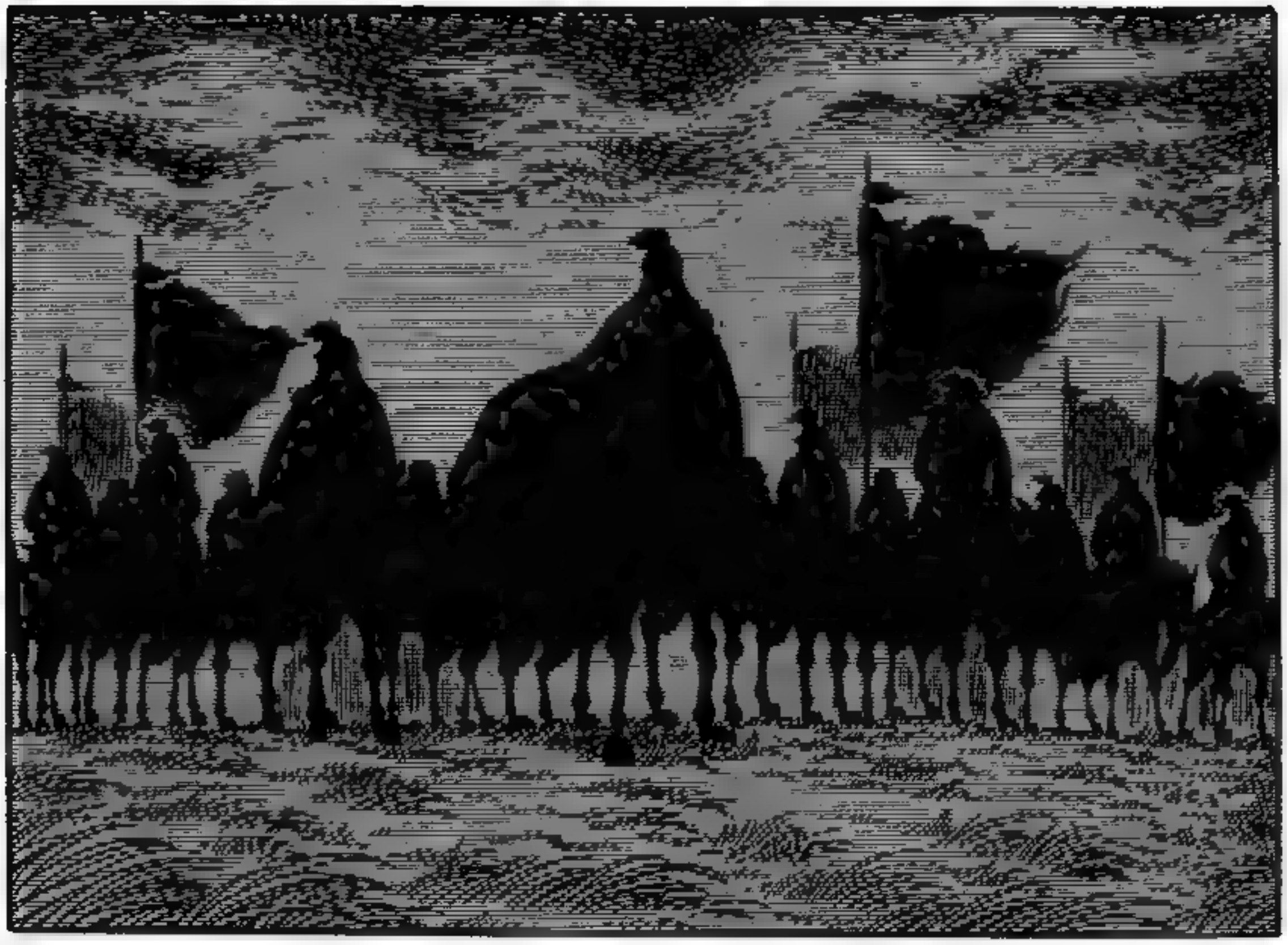

IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT, TEMUCHIN LED HIS FELLOW MONGOLS TO STORM THE CAMPS OF THEIR MOST HATED ENEMIES, THE TARTARS.

AHH!
ENEMY RAID!



DESPITE THE ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE TARTARS BY SURPRISE, THE BATTLE-HARDENED TARTARS RESPOND QUICKLY AND ACCORDINGLY.

THE TWO SIDES BECAME LOCKED IN A CHAOTIC CLASH



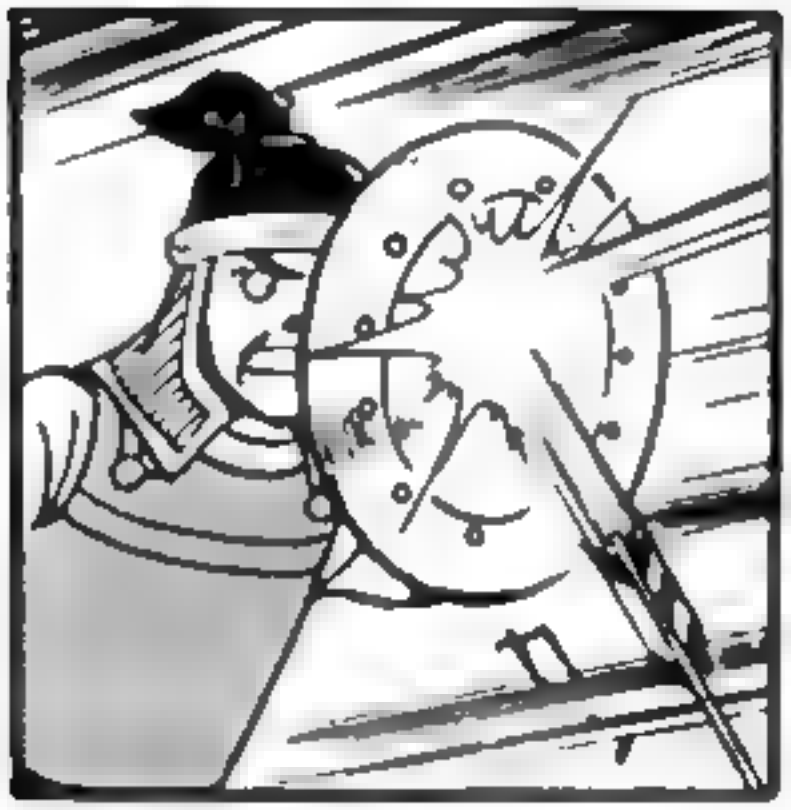
HA, THOSE MONGOLS AREN'T TOO SHABBY.

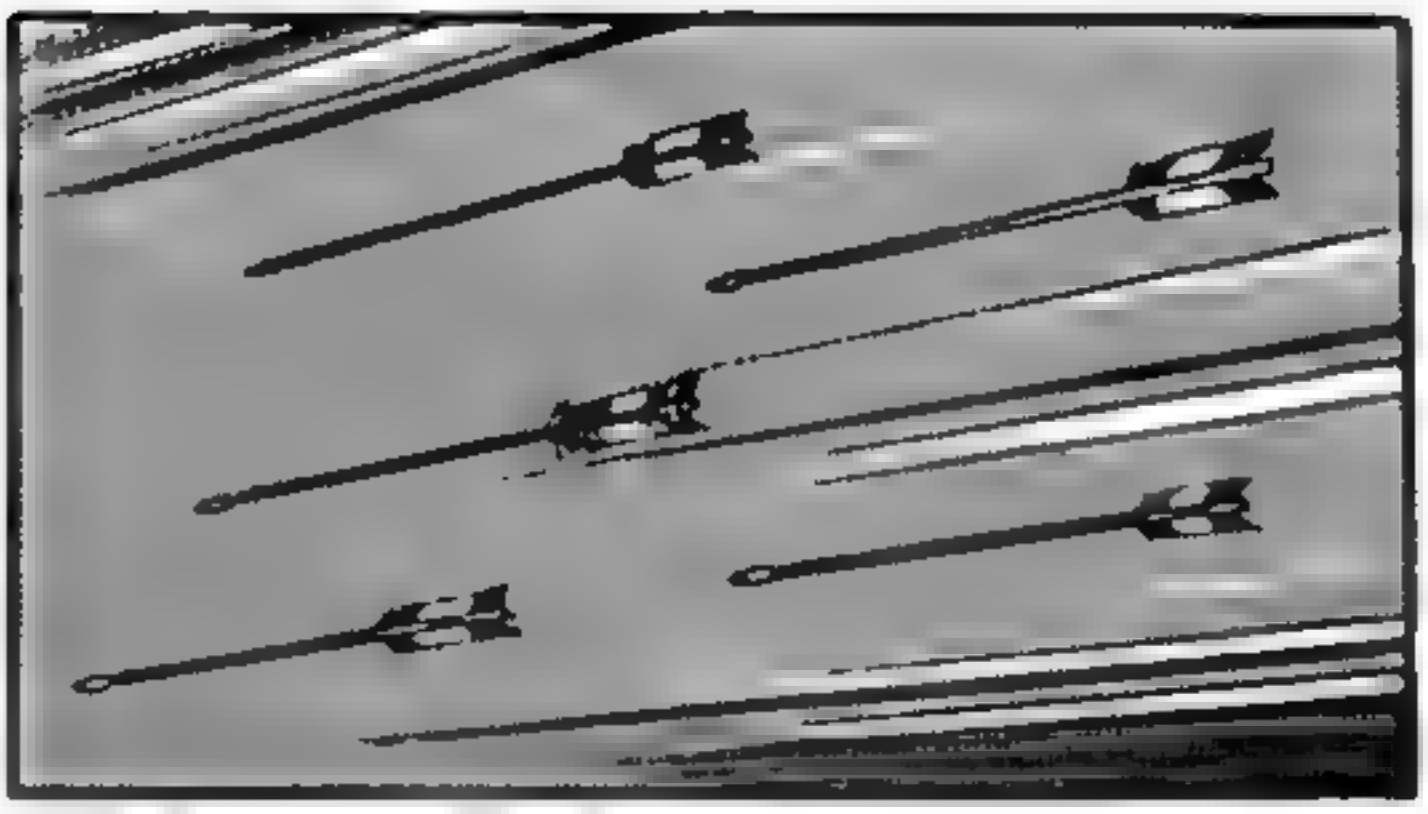
COME, MEN! LET US NOT WASTE THIS CHANCE GIVEN TO US BY THE MONGOLS TO VANQUISH THE TARTARS!

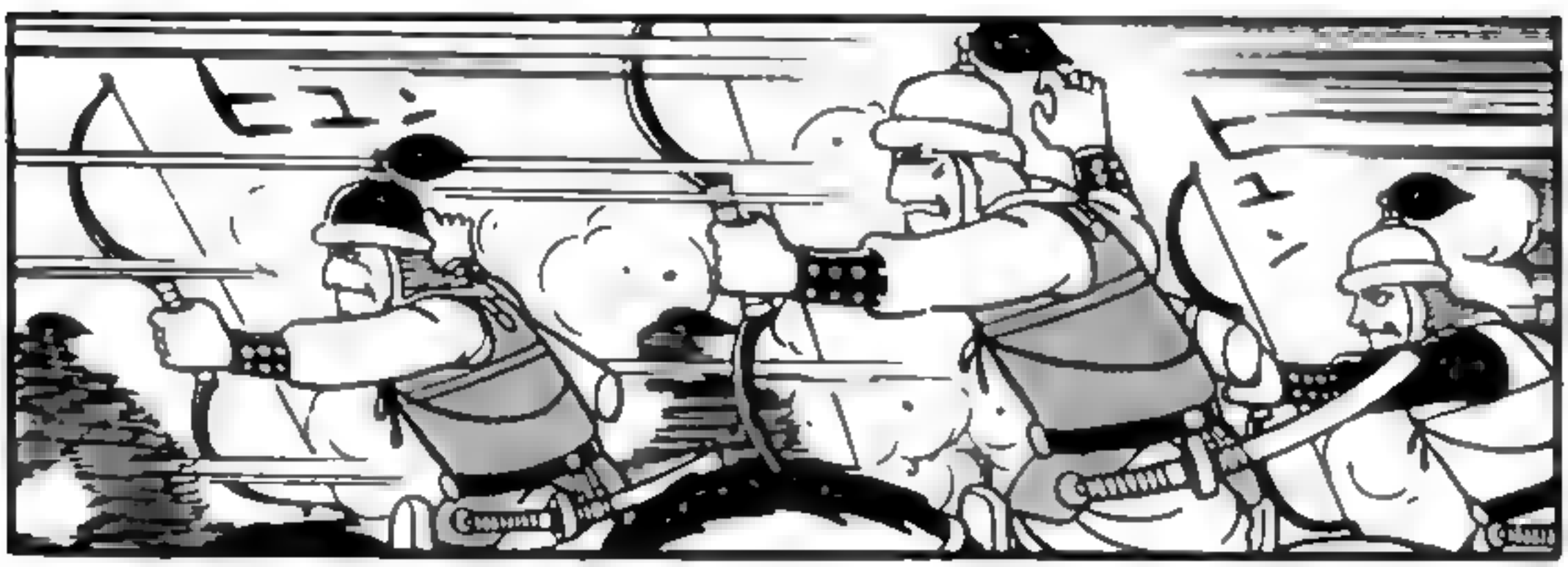
AH-

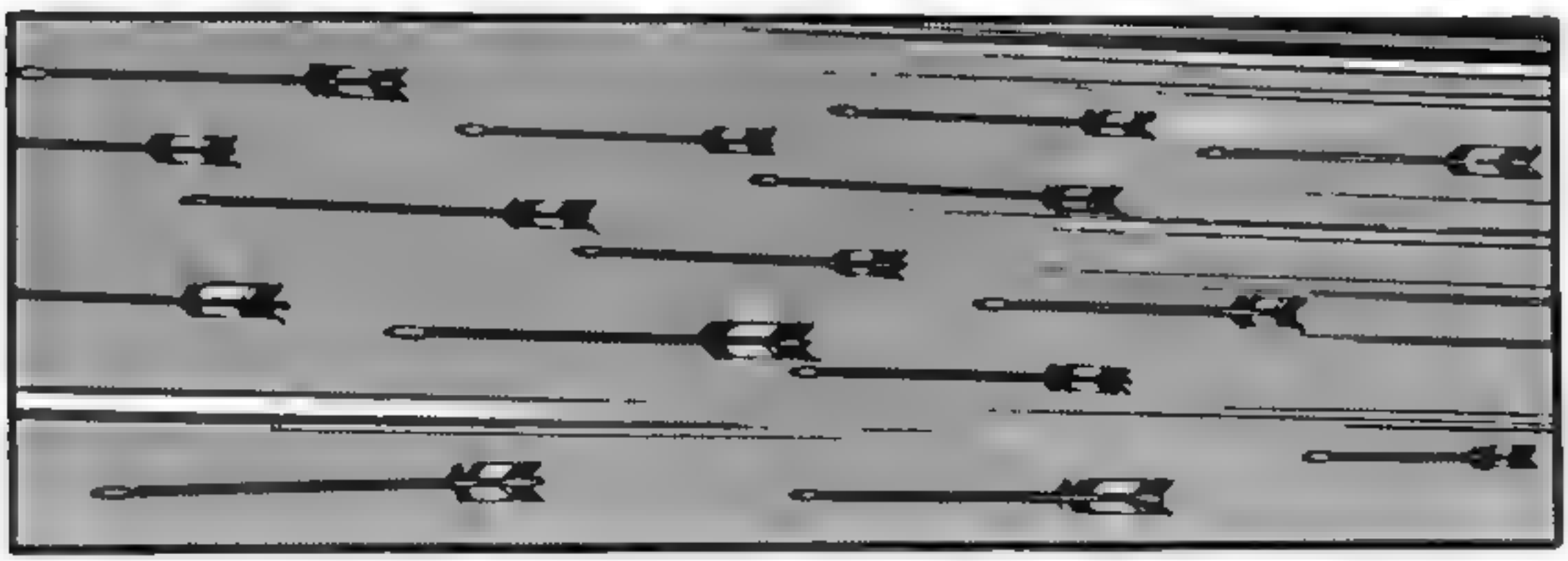
HM?

MORE ENEMIES TO THE NORTH! SEND REINFORCE-MENTS TO THE NORTHERN FRONT!









AGHH!

GAH-

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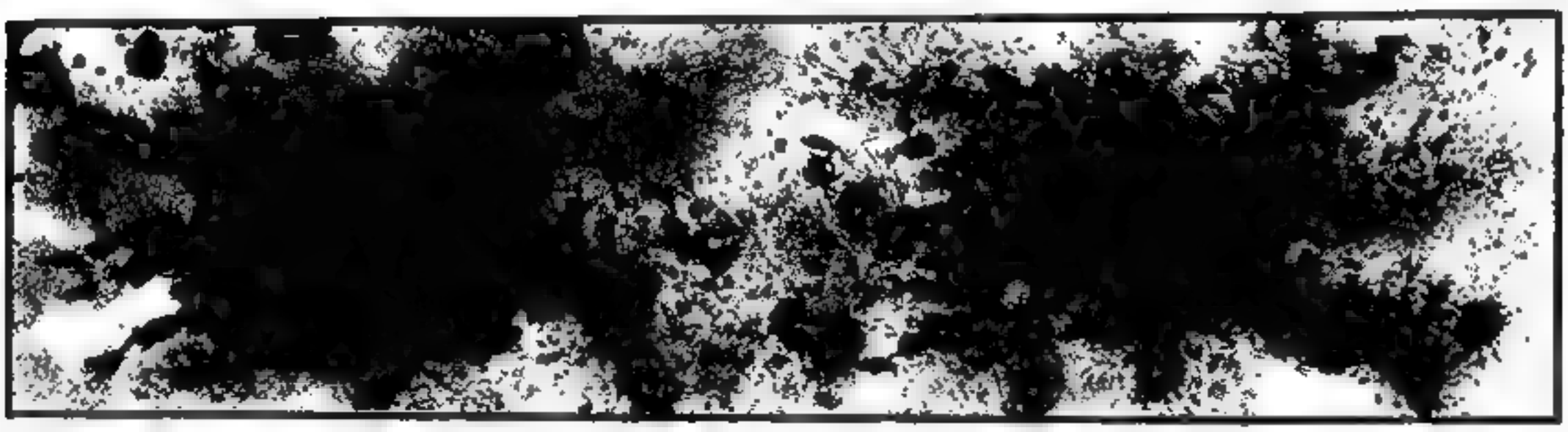
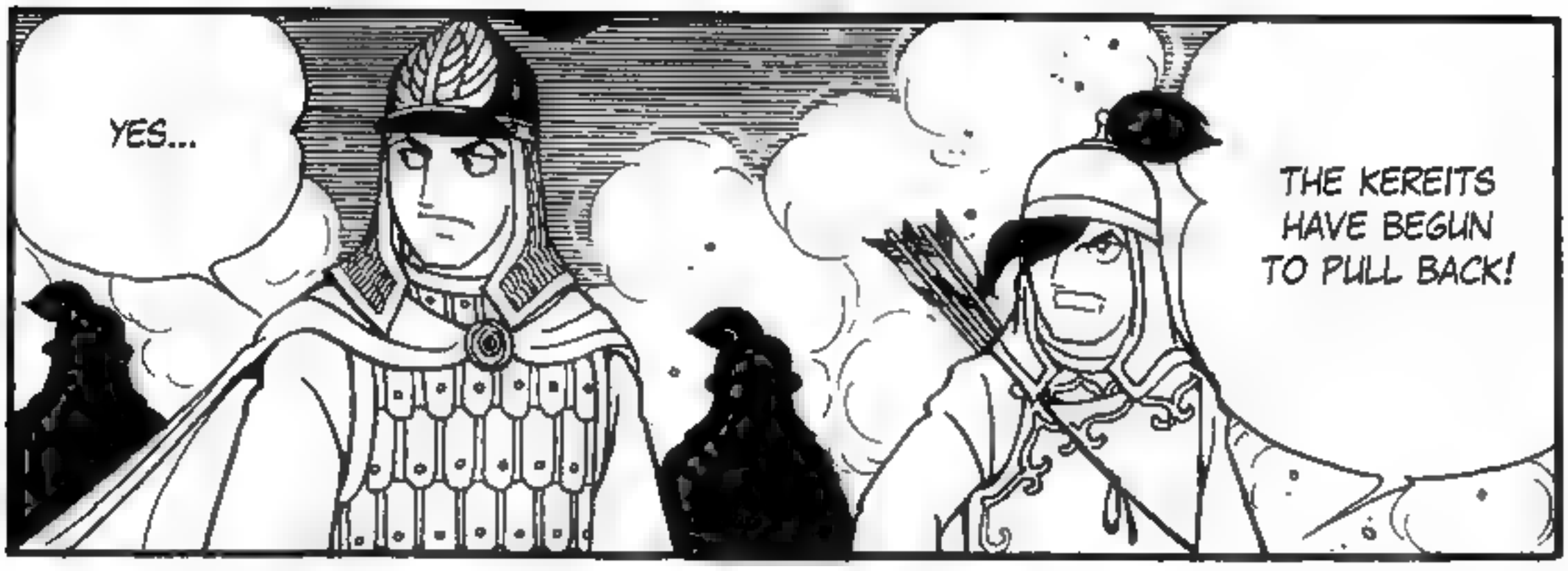


YES, KHAN.

THIS IS ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT. SOUND THE SIGNAL TO WITHDRAW.


YES...
THE KEREITS HAVE BEGUN TO PULL BACK!

YES, KHAN!
GIVE THE SIGNAL FOR OUR TROOPS TO WITHDRAW FOR THE NIGHT AS WELL!

THAT'S THE RETREAT SIGNAL!

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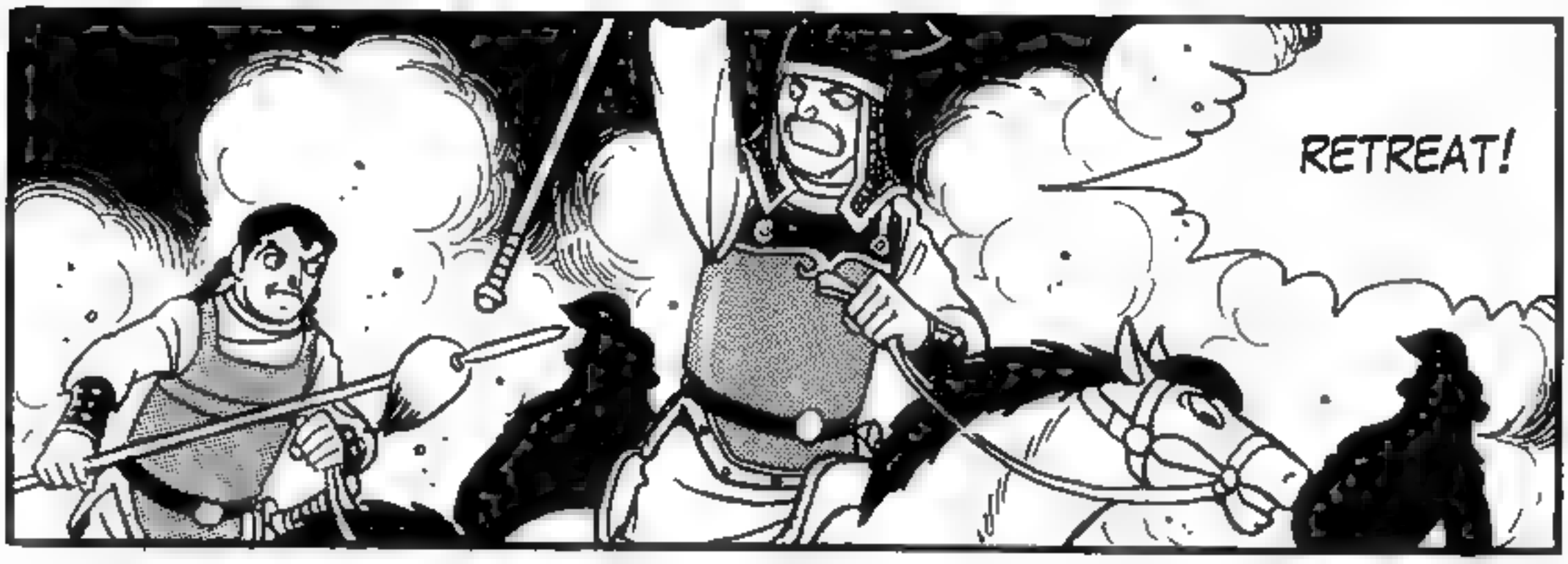
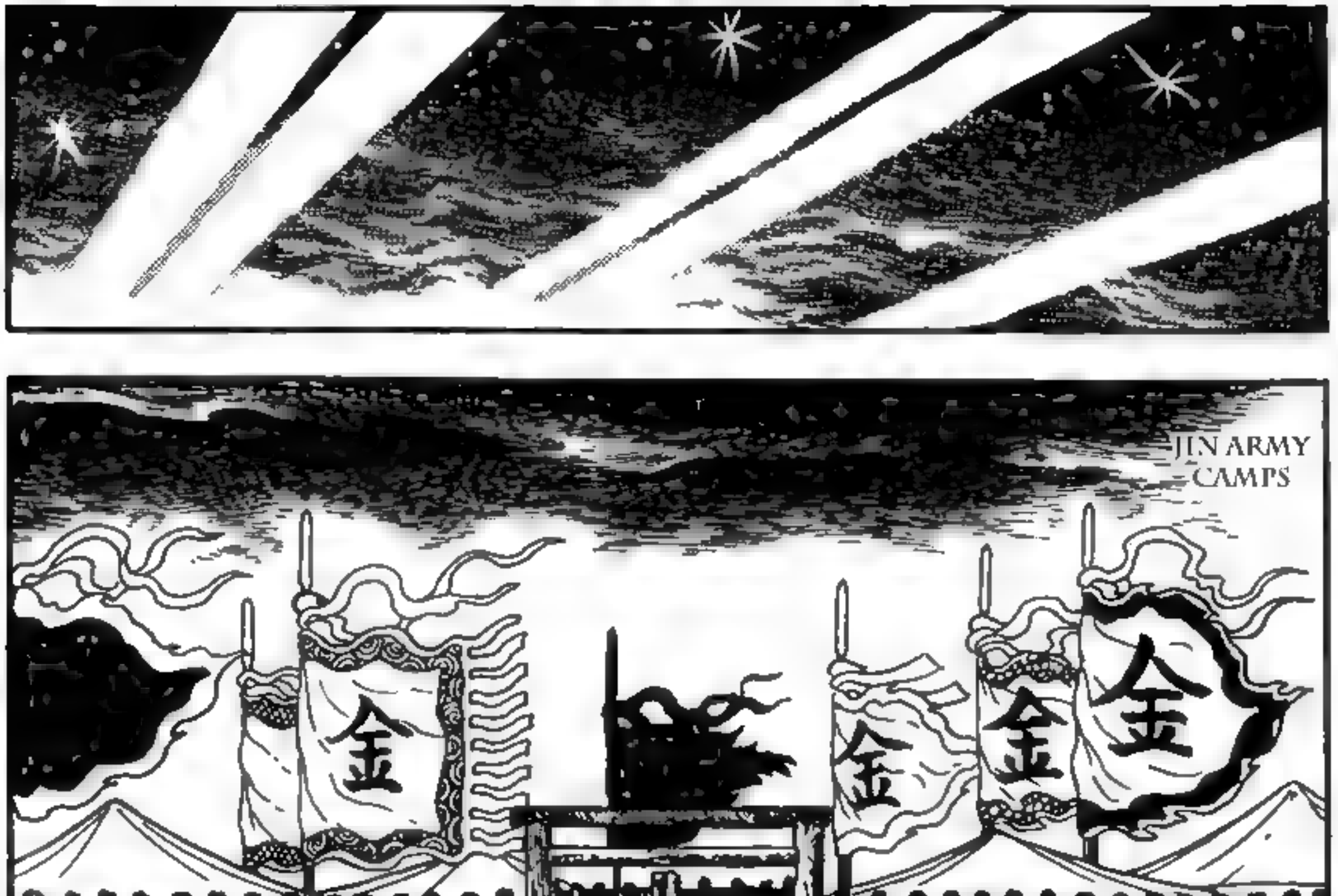

RETREAT!

THE MONGOLS AND KERAITS THUS WITHDREW AFTER INFLICTING A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TARTAR CASUALTIES


JIN ARMY
CAMPS
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WHAT REPORT DO YOU BRING, SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?

COMMANDER WANYEN XIANG, I HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT.

IS THAT SO?

THE MONGOL AND KEREIT FORCES MOUNTED AN ATTACK ON THE TARTAR CAMPS LAST NIGHT.

I SEE.

YES, AND THEY'VE INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES.

YES, SIR.

THERE IS NOTHING MORE BENEFICIAL FOR OUR EMPIRE THAN TO HAVE THE STEPPE NOMADS ON OUR FRONTIERS FIGHT AND KILL EACH OTHER. THE MONGOLS AND KEREITS WILL BE JUSTLY REWARDED FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE.

STILL, WE CANNOT LET THEM DO ALL THE WORK. WE MUST SHOW THEM OUR OWN MILITARY MIGHT, SO THAT THEY WILL KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEM IF THEY EVER DEFY US AS THE TARTARS DID.

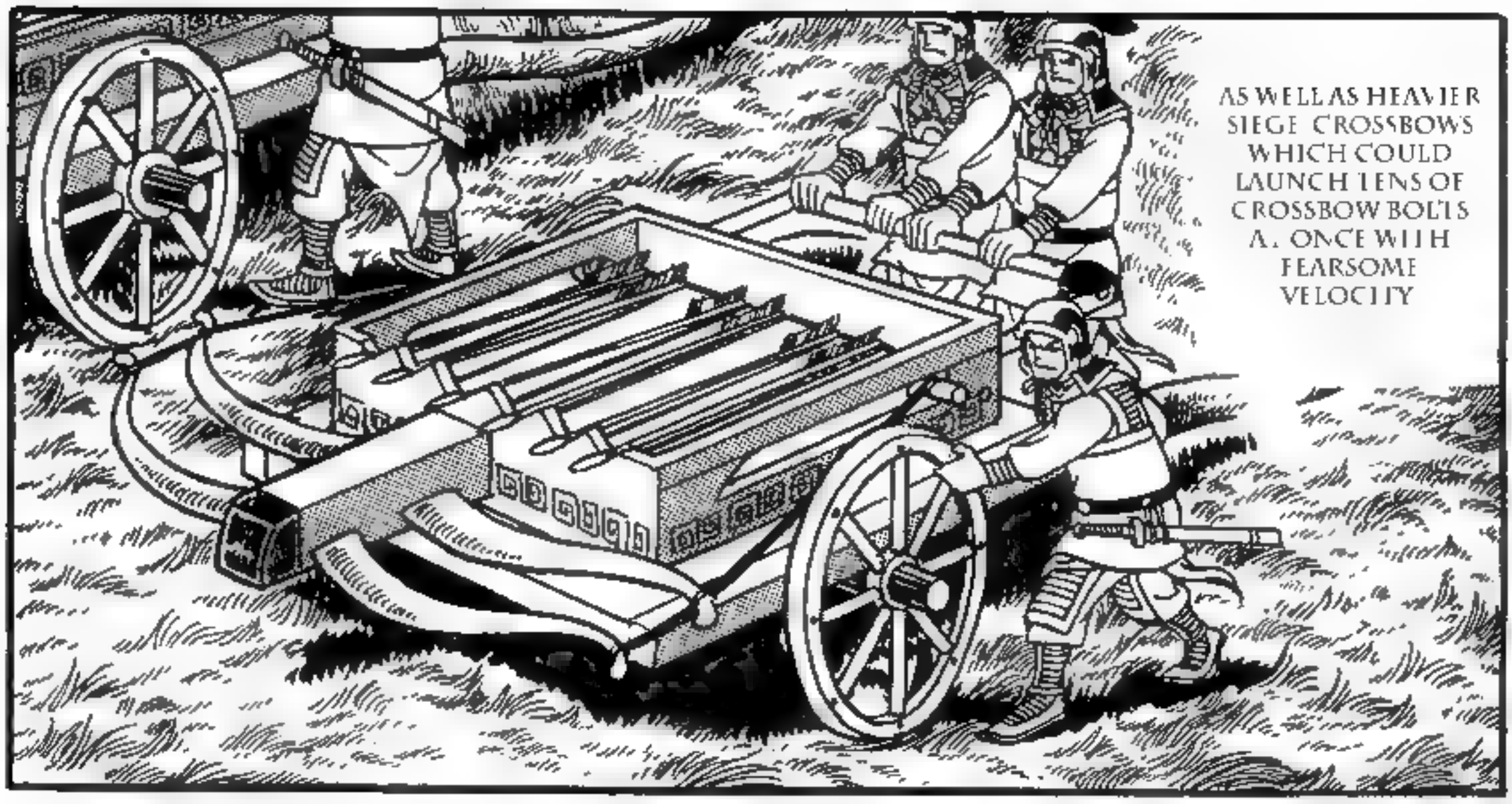
YES.

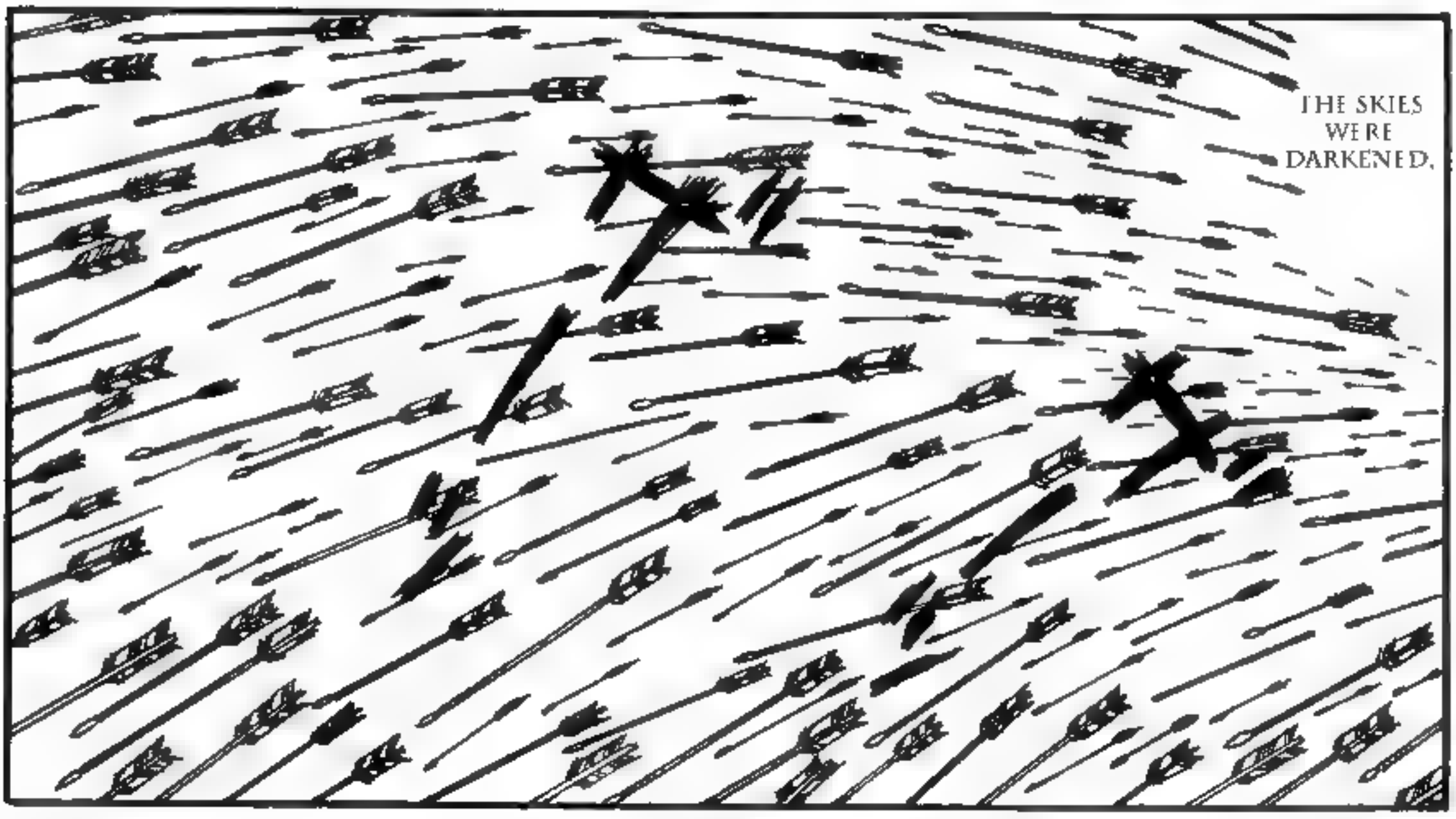
GET THE TROOPS READY FOR AN ASSAULT.

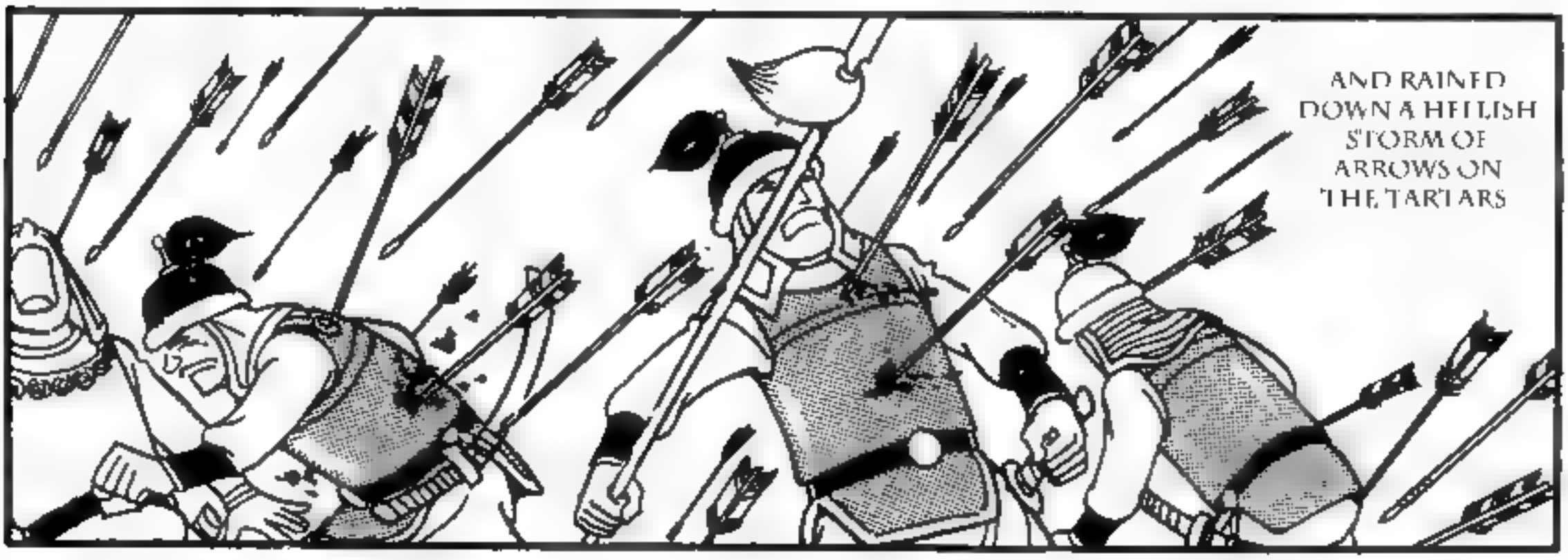
THE TARTARS NOW HAD TO FEND OFF AGAINST THE FORMIDABLE JIN ARMY.

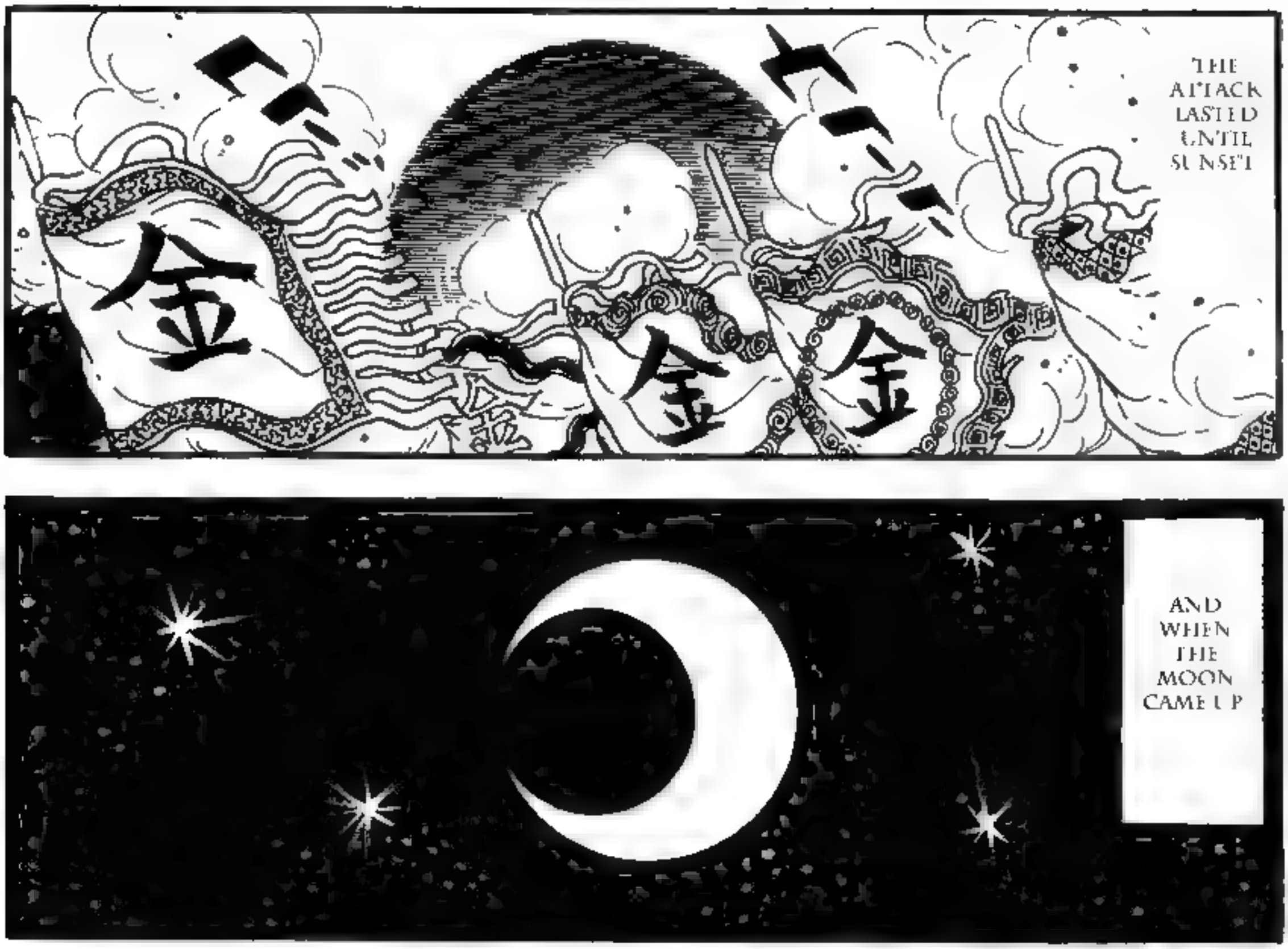
THE JIN POSSESSED SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS SUCH AS THE HAND-HELD CROSSBOW.

WITH AN EFFECTIVE RANGE OVER 200M.


AS WELL AS HEAVIER SIEGE CROSSBOWS WHICH COULD LAUNCH TENS OF CROSSBOW BOLTS AT ONCE WITH FEARSOME VELOCITY


THE SKIES WERE DARKENED,


AND RAINED DOWN A HELLISH STORM OF ARROWS ON THE TARTARS


THE ATTACK LASTED UNTIL SUNSET
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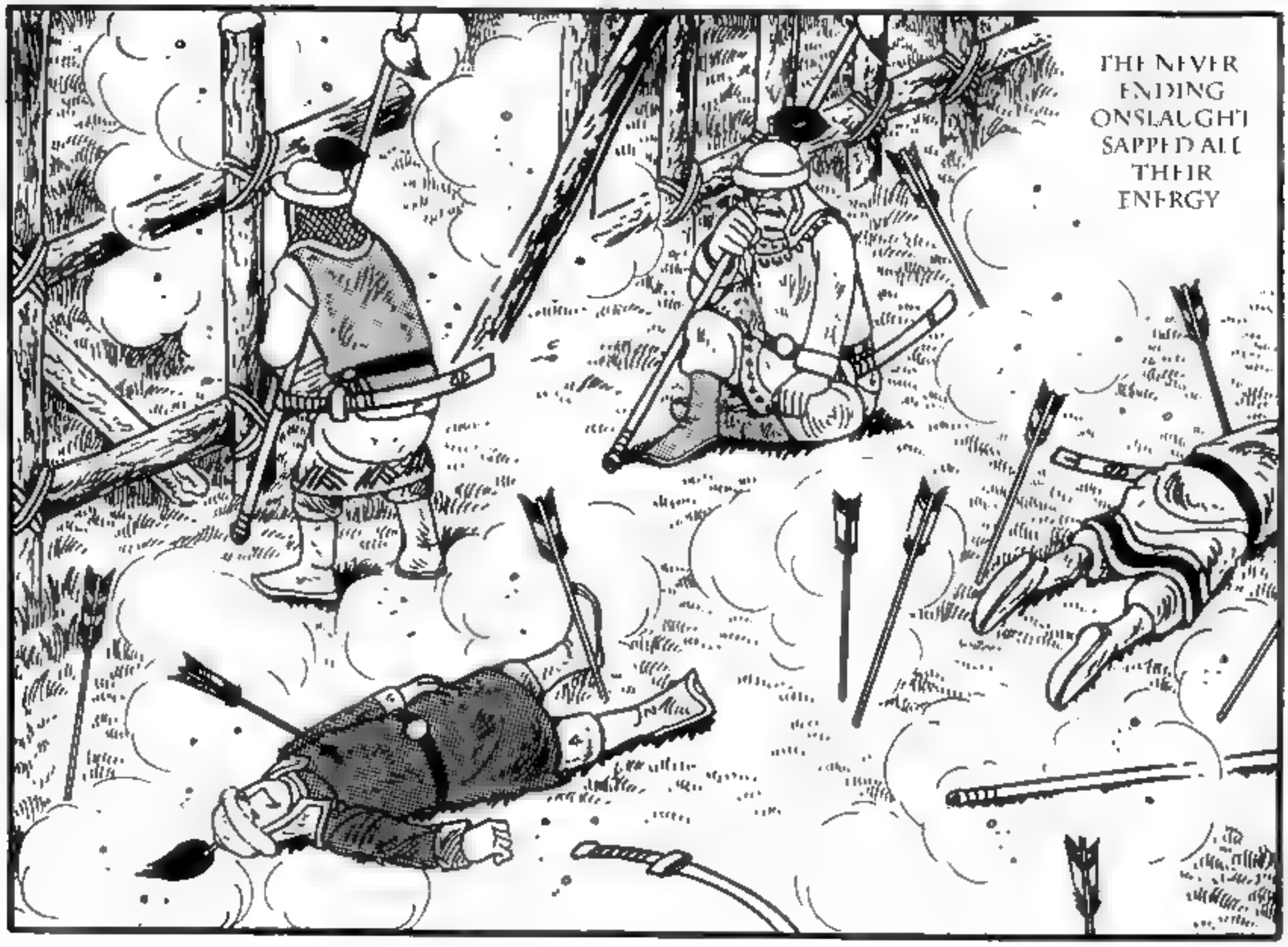
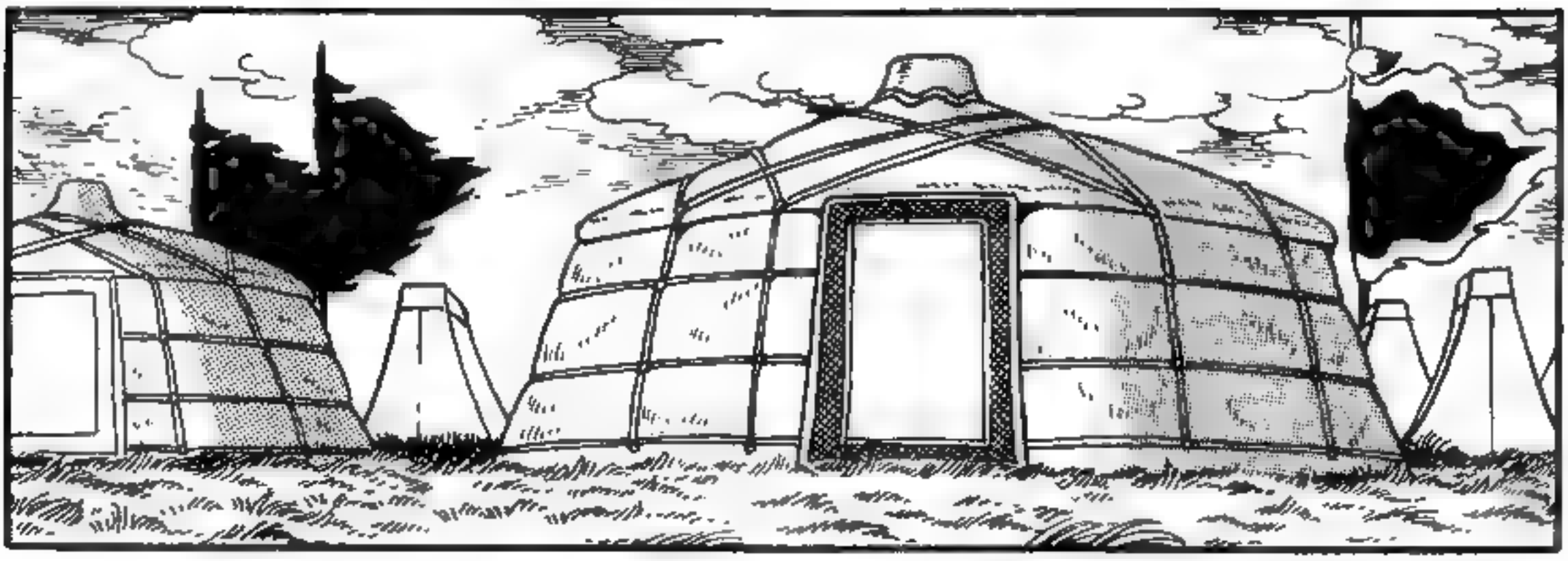
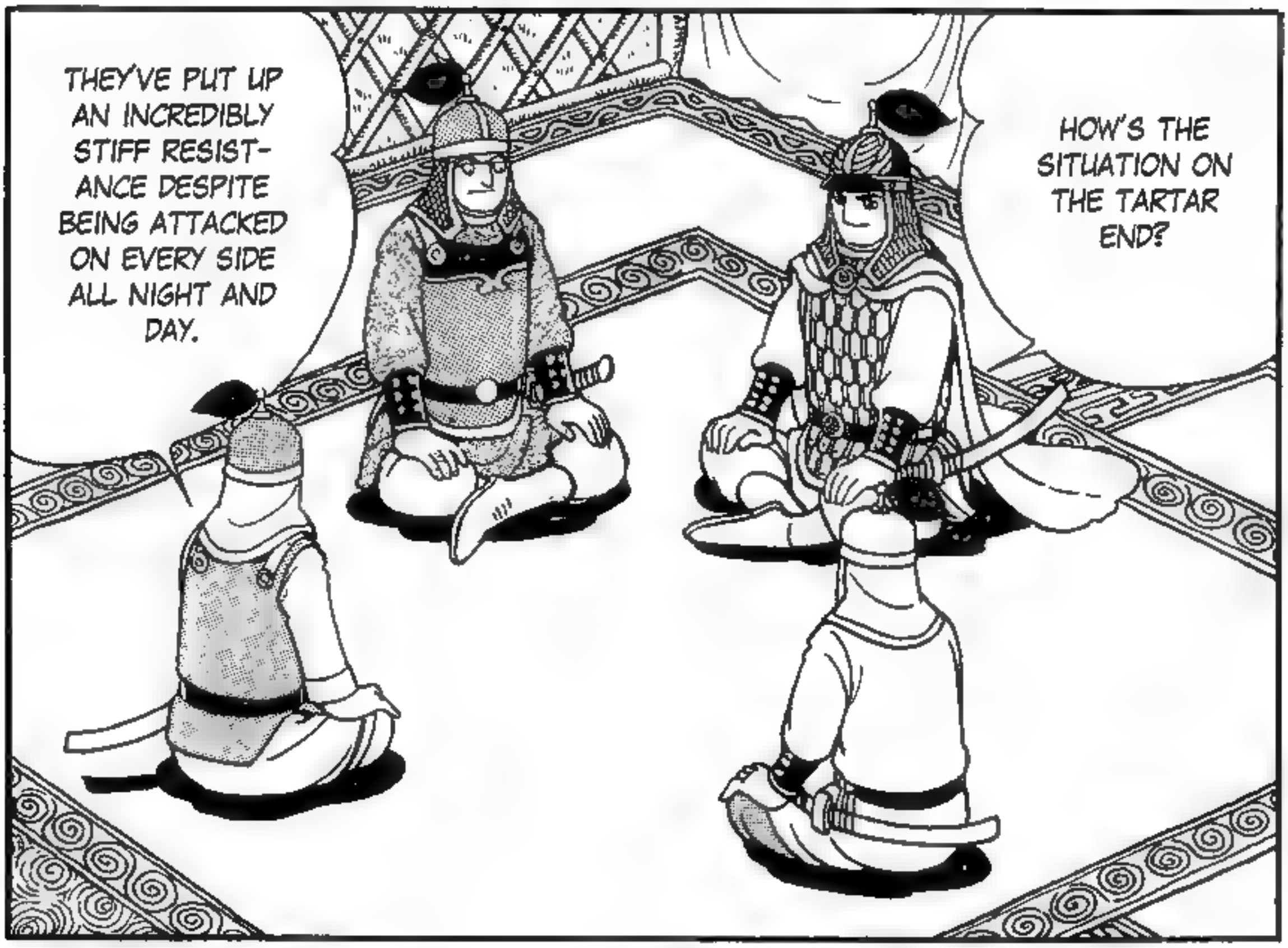
AND WHEN THE MOON CAME UP
IT WAS TIME FOR THE MONGOLS AND KEREITS TO ATTACK

THE TARTARS HAD NO TIME TO EAT NOR REST


THE NEVER ENDING ONSLAUGHT SAPPED ALL THEIR ENERGY




THEY'VE PUT UP AN INCREDIBLY STIFF RESIST-ANCE DESPITE BEING ATTACKED ON EVERY SIDE ALL NIGHT AND DAY.
HOW'S THE SITUATION ON THE TARTAR END?

YES, I PREDICT THEY WILL ONLY LAST FOR ONE OR TWO MORE DAYS AT MOST.

BUT THEY'VE REACHED THEIR LIMIT. THIS IS THEIR 6TH DAY FIGHTING WITH HARDLY ANY TIME TO REST OR EAT.

AH YES, THEIR "CROSSBOWS."

I MUST SAY THOSE JIN-BOWS ARE QUITE A FEARSOME SIGHT.

ITS EFFECTIVE RANGE IS INCREDIBLY FAR. ENEMY TROOPS GET TORN APART BEFORE THEY CAN ENGAGE THEM WITH SWORDS AND SPEARS.

WE WOULD NEED A WEAPON EVEN GREATER THAN THAT IF WE WERE TO GO UP AGAINST THE JIN.

NO, THAT IS NOT WHAT I SAID.

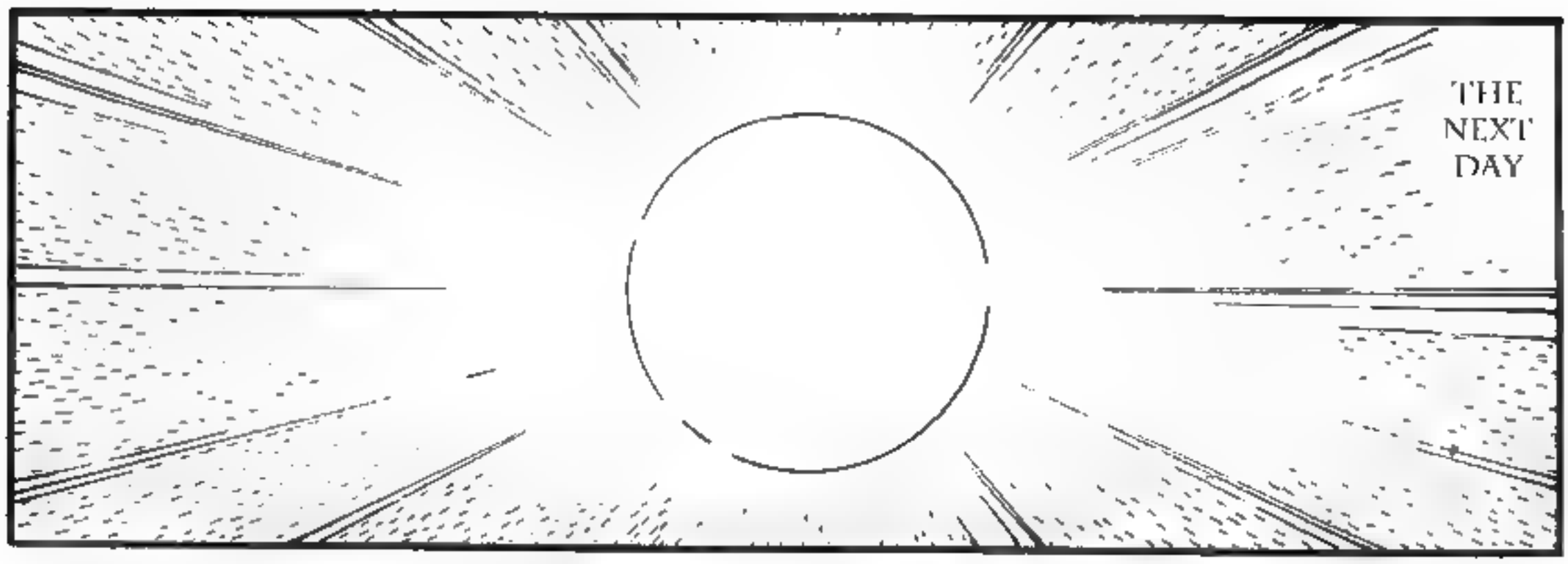
YOU'RE NOT SAYING YOU WISH TO FIGHT THE JIN, ARE YOU NOW...?

YES.

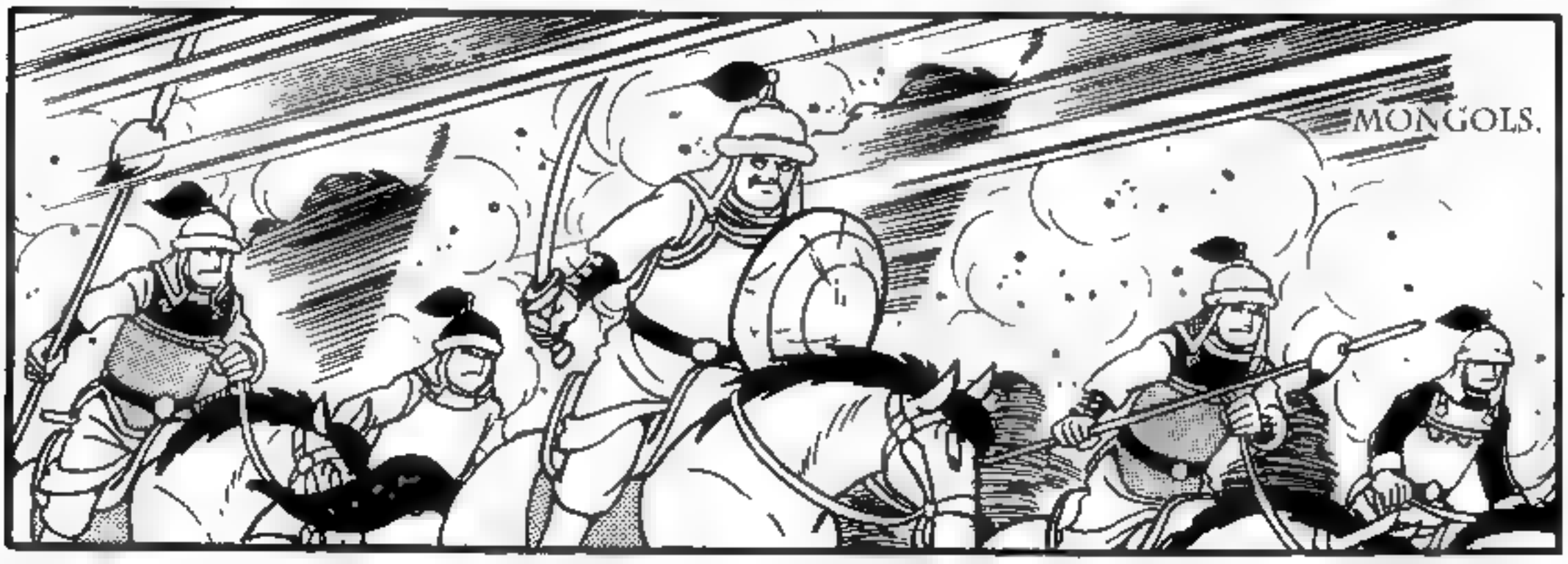
WELL THAT'S A RELIEF TO HEAR. EVEN HAVING NINE LIVES WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH TO SURVIVE THOSE CROSSBOW STORMS.

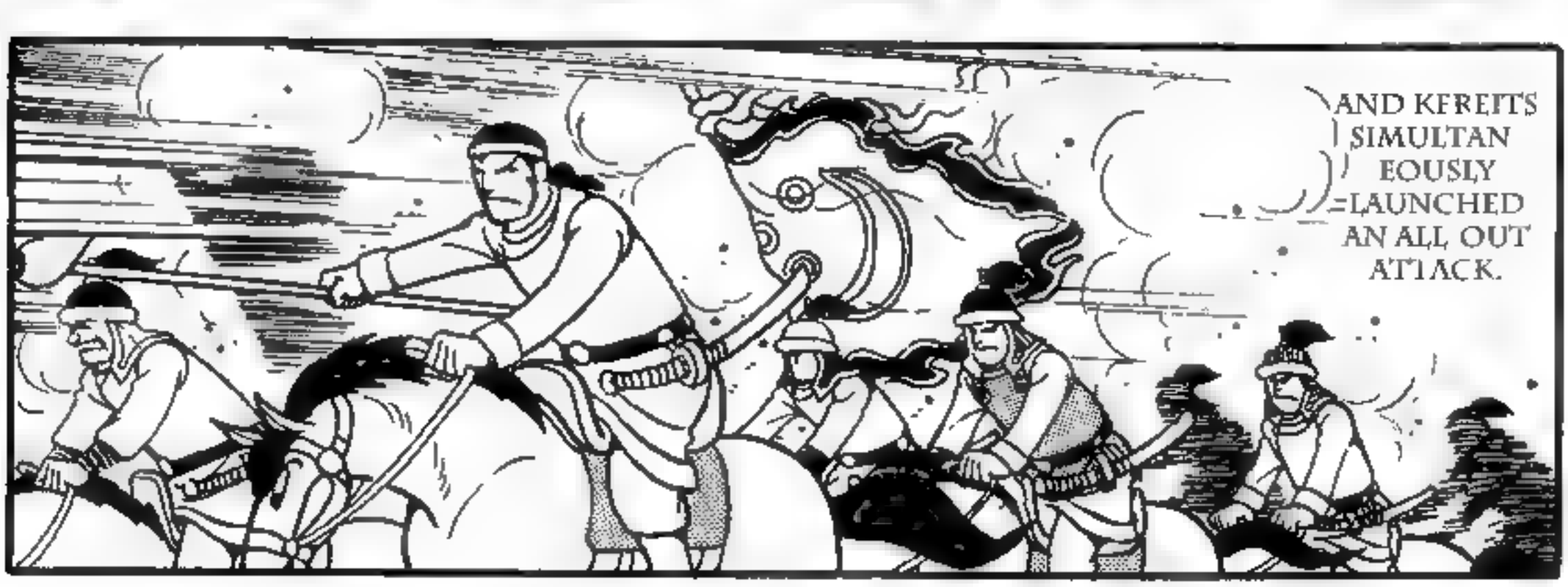
YES, AND THE SPOILS OF WAR LOOKS TO BE GOOD.

IN ANY CASE, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FINISH THE TARTARS OFF BY TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER THAT, CORRECT?


THE NEXT DAY

THE JIN.


MONGOLS.


AND KEREITS SIMULTAN EOUSLY =LAUNCHED AN ALL OUT ATTACK.

THE ALREADY WEAKENED TARTARS HAD NO HOPE OF FENDING OFF A 3-PRONGED ATTACK.

A FEW TARTARS MANAGED TO FLEE BUT MOST LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS AND SURRENDERED.

YES, OF COURSE.

DO NOT FORGET WHAT WE PROMISED ON BEFORE THE CAMPAIGN, TEMUCHIN.

I REMEMBER.

THE MEN WILL ALL BE PUT TO THE SWORD, THEIR WOMEN ENSLAVED, AND THEIR WEALTH PLUNDERED.

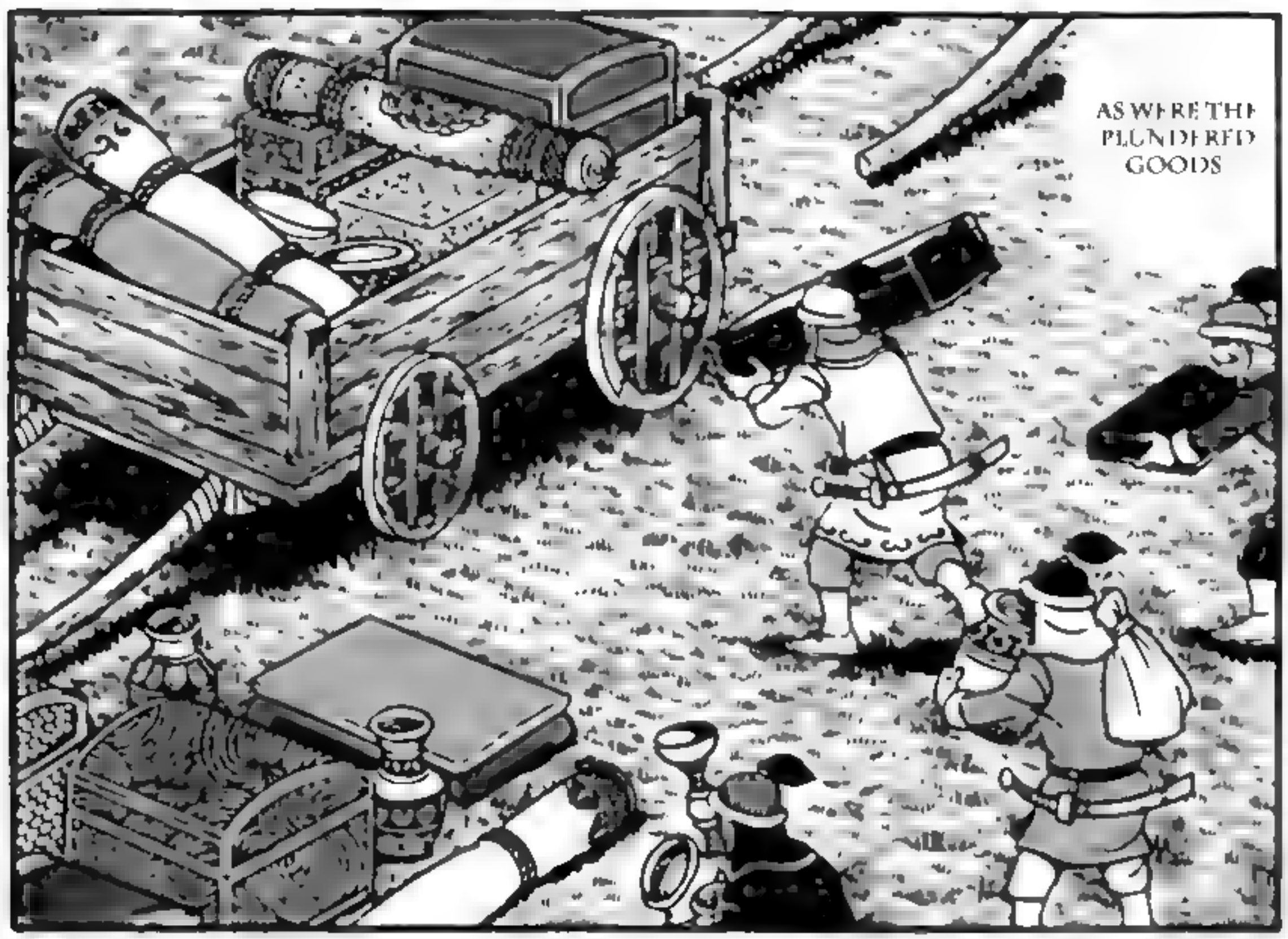
YES.

WE CANNOT LET THESE VERMIN GROW AND RISE UP AGAINST US AGAIN. THE TARTARS MUST BE EXTERMINATED FOR GOOD.

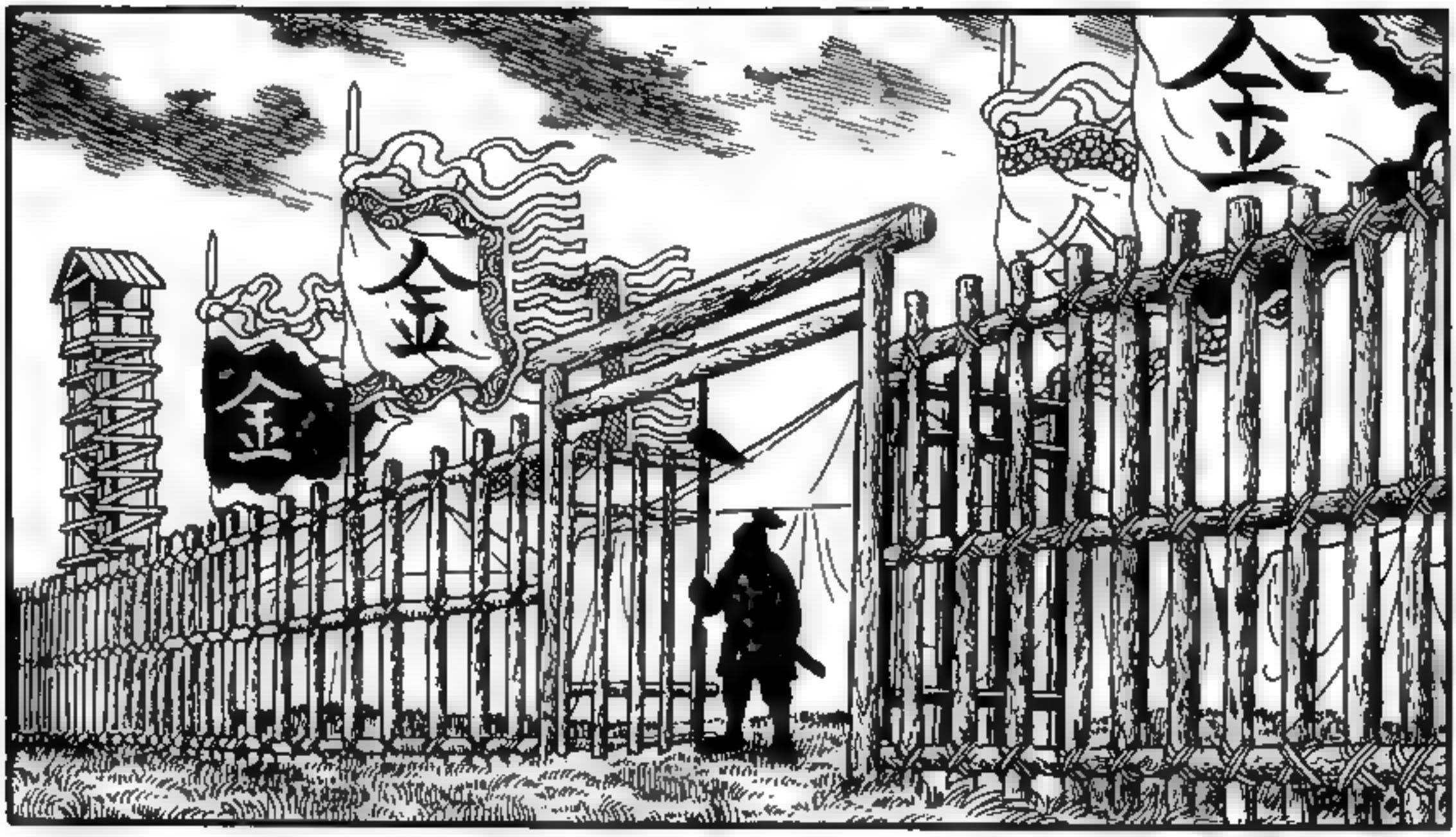
THUS, THE MASS SLAUGHTER BEGAN.

ALL CAPTIVE TARTAR MEN WERE BEHEADED WITHOUT MERCY.

MEANWHILE, THE WOMEN WERE SPLIT EVENLY INTO TWO SIDES FOR THE KERLITS AND THE MONGOLS.


AS WERE THE PLUNDERED GOODS

ALL ELSE WHICH COULD NOT BE TAKEN WERE BURNED. THE TARTARS, ONCE ONE OF THE FOUR MAJOR TRIBES OF EASTERN MONGOLIA, WERE NEVER TO RISE AGAIN.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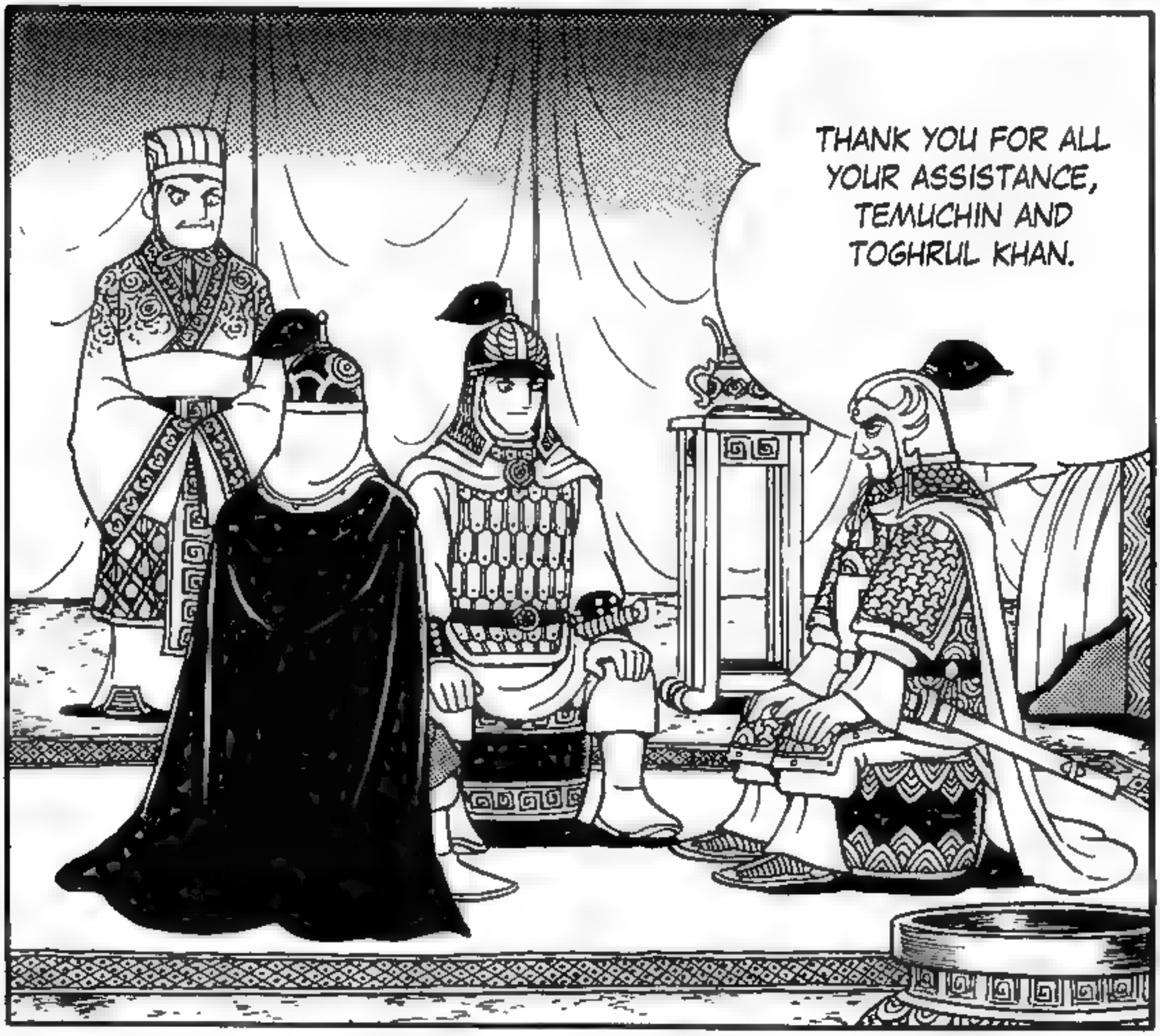

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE, TEMUCHIN AND TOGHRUL KHAN.

FOR YOUR DEED, TOGHRUL, THE JIN EMPIRE BESTOWS THE TITLE OF WANG (KING).

YES. THE JIN EMPIRE REWARDS ITS ALLIES WELL.

ME? THE WANG KHAN?

I AM HONOURED.

HERE IS THE SEAL AND PROOF OF YOUR NEW TITLE.

YES?

TEMUCHIN KHAN.

CHA UT-KURI COMMANDER IN THE CHA UT, THE FRONTIER JIN-TERRITORY GUARDED BY STEPPE TRIBES IN SERVICE OF JIN

CONGRATULATIONS.

HAHA! YOU HEAR THAT, I AM NOW THE WANG KHAN!

SEEMS SO.

THE JIN HAS RECOGNIZED ME AS THE KING OF THE STEPPE.

OF COURSE.

WELL IN ANY CASE, LET US BOTH WITHDRAW OUR ARMIES 3 DAYS FROM NOW AS ARRANGED PREVIOUSLY.

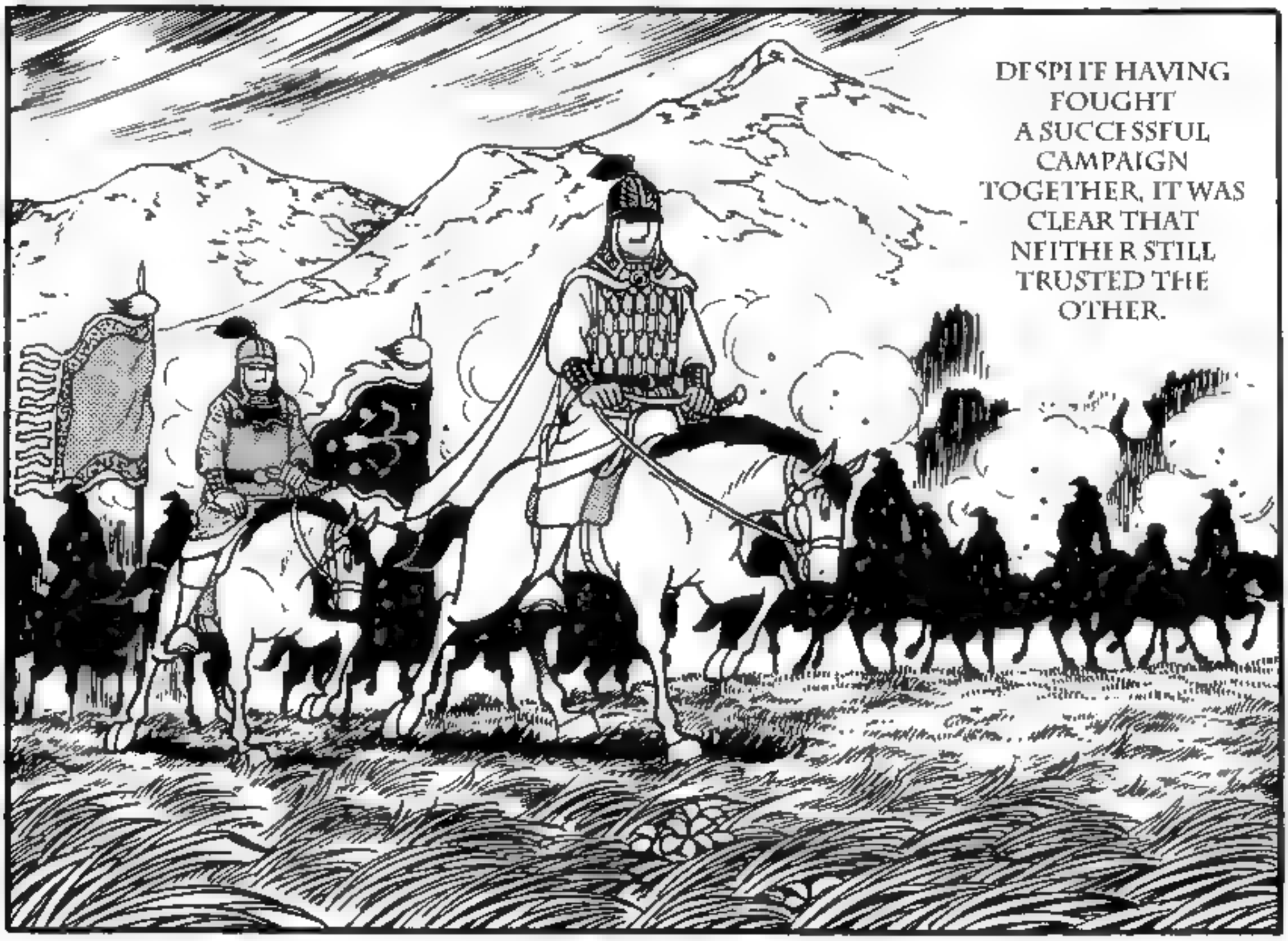
YES.

LET US FIGHT TOGETHER AGAIN IF ANY FOE DARES HARM EITHER OF US.

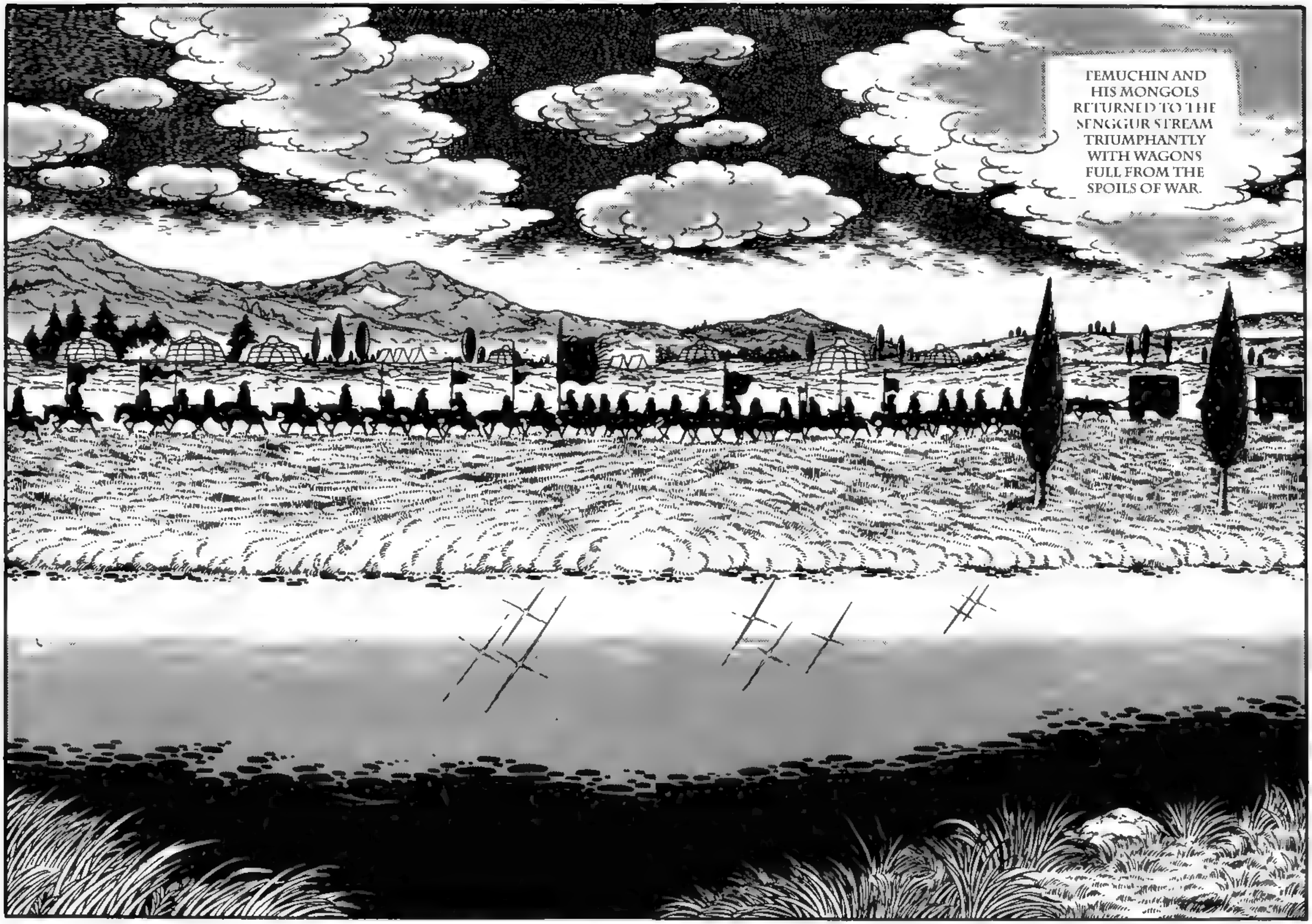
HAHAHA! WANG KHAN! NOW THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL SOUND TO MY EARS!

SMILING SO MUCH OVER A SIMPLE TITLE... WHAT GOOD WILL ANY TITLE DO IN TIMES OF CRISIS? COULD IT EVER MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE OR DEATH WHEN YOUR HEAD IS ON THE LINE...?

3 DAYS AFTER, THE TWO ARMIES DISMANTLED THEIR CAMPS AND WITHDREW.


DESPITE HAVING FOUGHT A SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TOGETHER, IT WAS CLEAR THAT NEITHER STILL TRUSTED THE OTHER.

Internal Conflict


TEMUCHIN AND HIS MONGOLS RETURNED TO THE SENGGUR STREAM TRIUMPHANTLY WITH WAGONS FULL FROM THE SPOILS OF WAR.

YES, THEY STRIPPED THE CLOTHES FROM 50 OF OUR MEN IN ADDITION TO KILLING 10.

WHAT!? MY COUSINS SACHA-BEKI AND TAICHU ATTACKED MY TRIBESMEN DURING MY ABSENCE!?

I DO NOT KNOW.

WHY WOULD THEY DO SUCH A THING!?

FIRST, THE JURKINS REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE TARTARS... AND NOW, THEY DARE TO ATTACK MY TRIBE?

I'M TELLING YOU, BROTHER, THIS IS A CLEAR SIGN THAT THOSE TWO ARE PLOTTING TO BECOME THE MONGOL KHAN! THE JURKINS MUST THINK THAT WE'VE TAKEN CONSIDERABLE CASUALTIES FROM OUR RECENT CAMPAIGN AND IS NOW FLEXING THEIR MUSCLES TO TEST OUR STRENGTH.

GATHER THE MEN OF OUR TRIBE ALONE! WE WILL PUNISH THE JURKINS OURSELVES!

THEY MAY BE MY COUSINS BUT IF I DON'T IMPOSE MY AUTHORITY, THE CHIEFS OF OTHER TRIBES WILL ALSO BEGIN TO ACT ON THEIR OWN AND SOON, I WILL BE THE KHAN OF NO ONE...

WE MUST QUICKLY SETTLE THIS ISSUE ALONE, LEST THE OTHER TRIBES USE THIS AS AN EXCUSE TO CLAIM THAT TEMUCHIN IS NOT FIT TO BE OUR KHAN.

JUST HOW STUBBORN CAN THESE JURKINS GET!? HAD THEY JUST ACCOMPANIED US ON THE TARTAR CAMPAIGN, THEY COULD HAVE HAD A SHARE OF THE PLUNDER AS WELL!

THE JURKINS HAD BEEN CAMPING OUT SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM TEMUCHIN'S TRIBE

YES...

WHAT!? TEMUCHIN IS LEADING HIS BODYGUARD OF ARMED TRIBESMEN OVER HERE!?

HE LIKELY HAD NO CHOICE. WE HAVE CLOSE ALLIES AND RELATIVES AMONG THE OTHER TRIBE LEADERS AND THEY WOULD NEVER SIDE WITH TEMUCHIN AGAINST US.

HA, SOME GUTS HE'S GOT, CHALLENGING US JURKINS, BRAVEST AND STRONGEST OF THE MONGOLS, WITH ONLY A SMALL FORCE OF HIS TRIBESMEN.

YES, I NEVER EXPECTED THAT RUNT COULD CALL THE OTHER TRIBES UNDER HIS BANNER AND LEAD THEM TO A DECISIVE VICTORY OVER THE TARTARS.

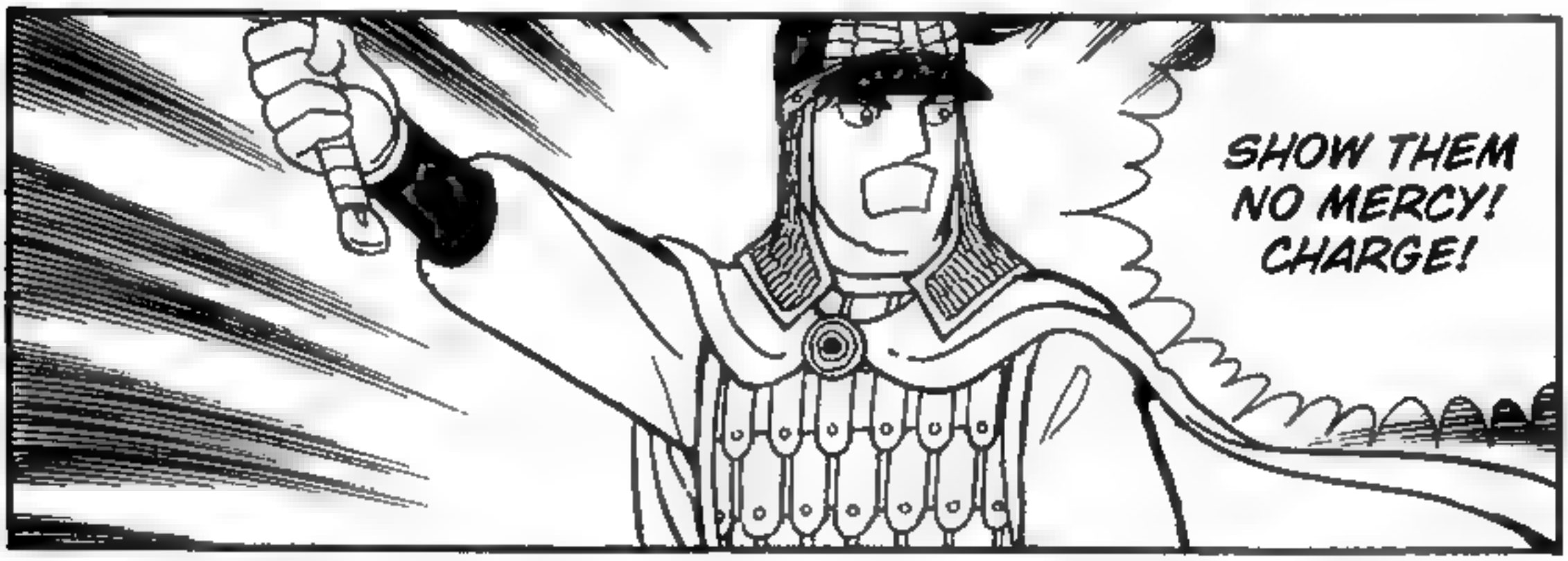
STILL, WE MISCALCULATED A LITTLE BIT, BROTHER.

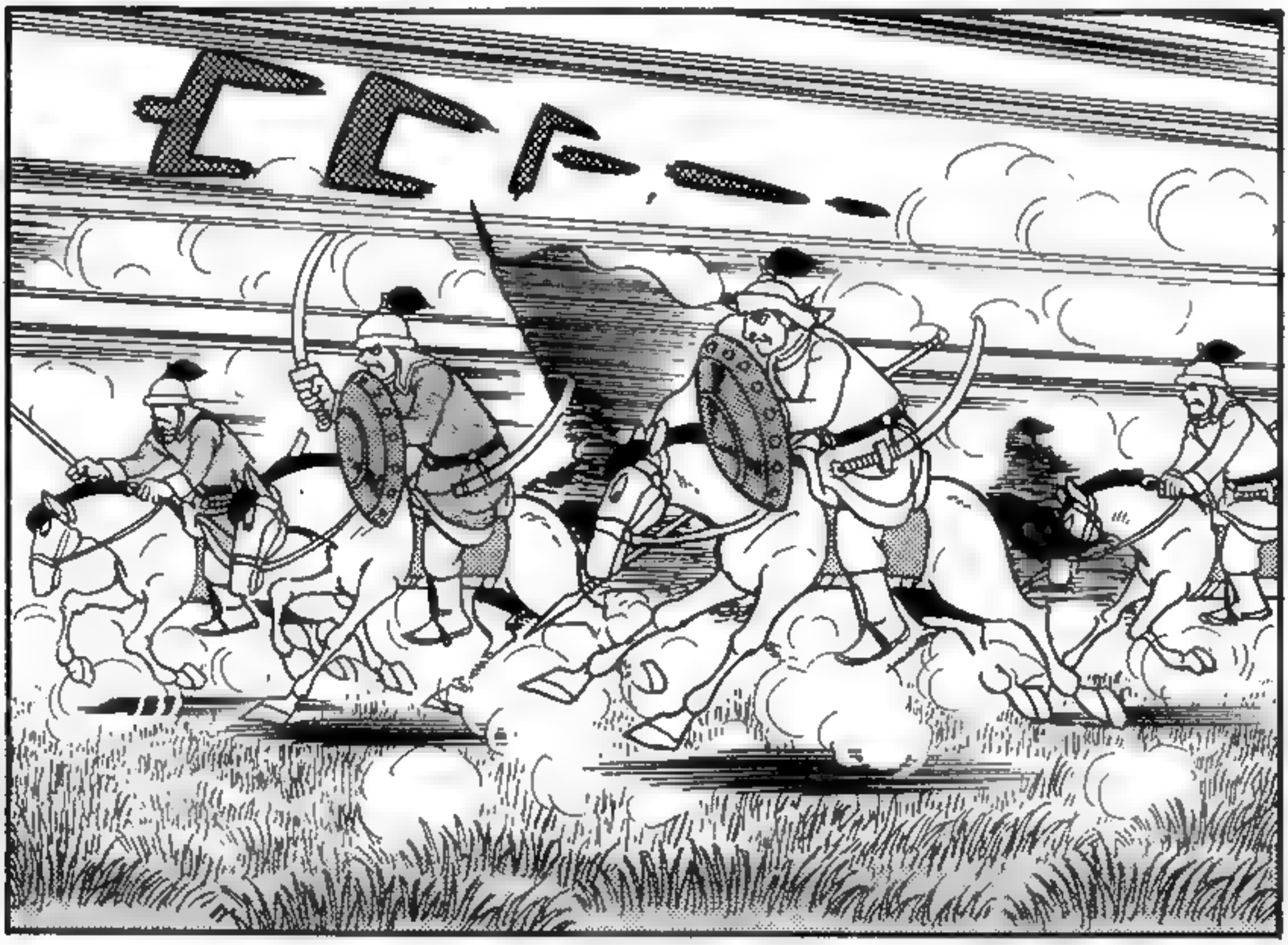
BUT WHATEVER, HE STILL DOES NOT COMMAND TRUE LOYALTY FROM THE OTHER MONGOL TRIBES. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SEND HIM BACK RUNNING TO HIS CAMPS WITH HIS TAIL BETWEEN HIS LEGS, AND IT'LL BE CLEAR TO ALL THE TRIBES JUST WHO THE ACTUAL KHAN SHOULD BE.

SACHA-BEKI AND HIS JURKINS PREPARED FOR BATTLE AND AWAITED TEMUCHIN. THE OTHER TRIBE LEADERS BATED THEIR BREATH AND OBSERVED THE SITUATION.

YES...

THEY'RE EXPECTING US, KHAN.


SHOW THEM NO MERCY! CHARGE!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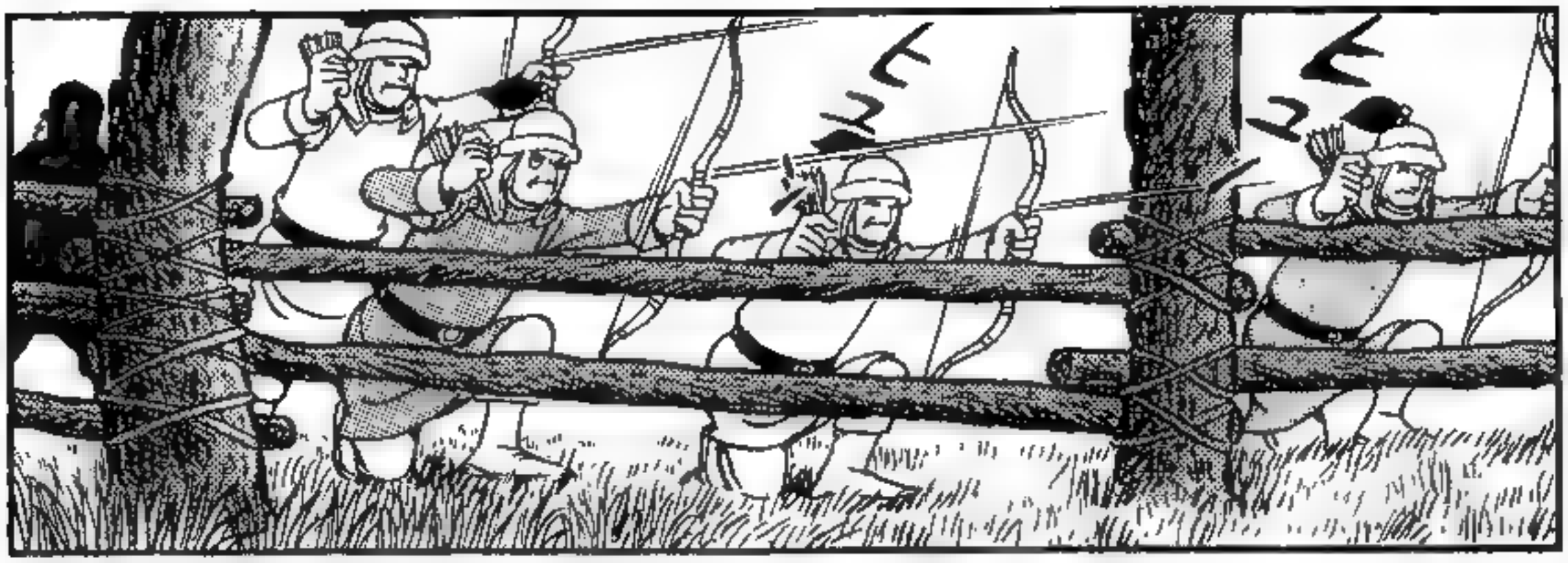
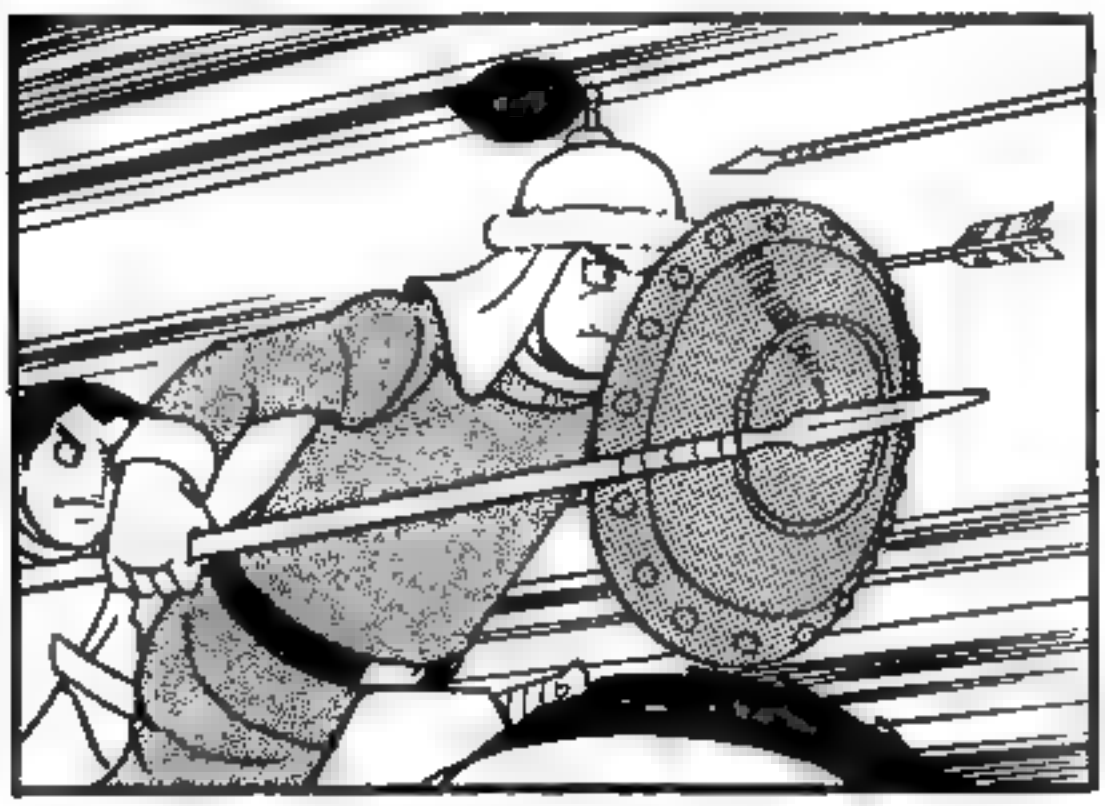
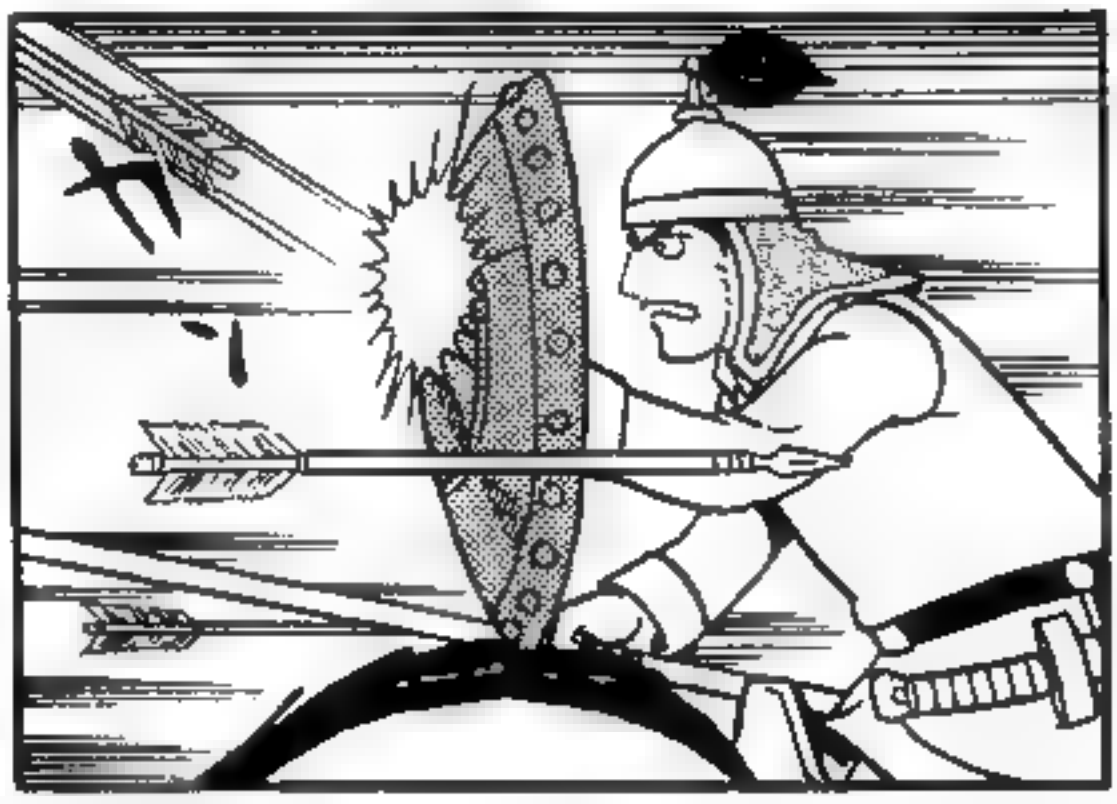
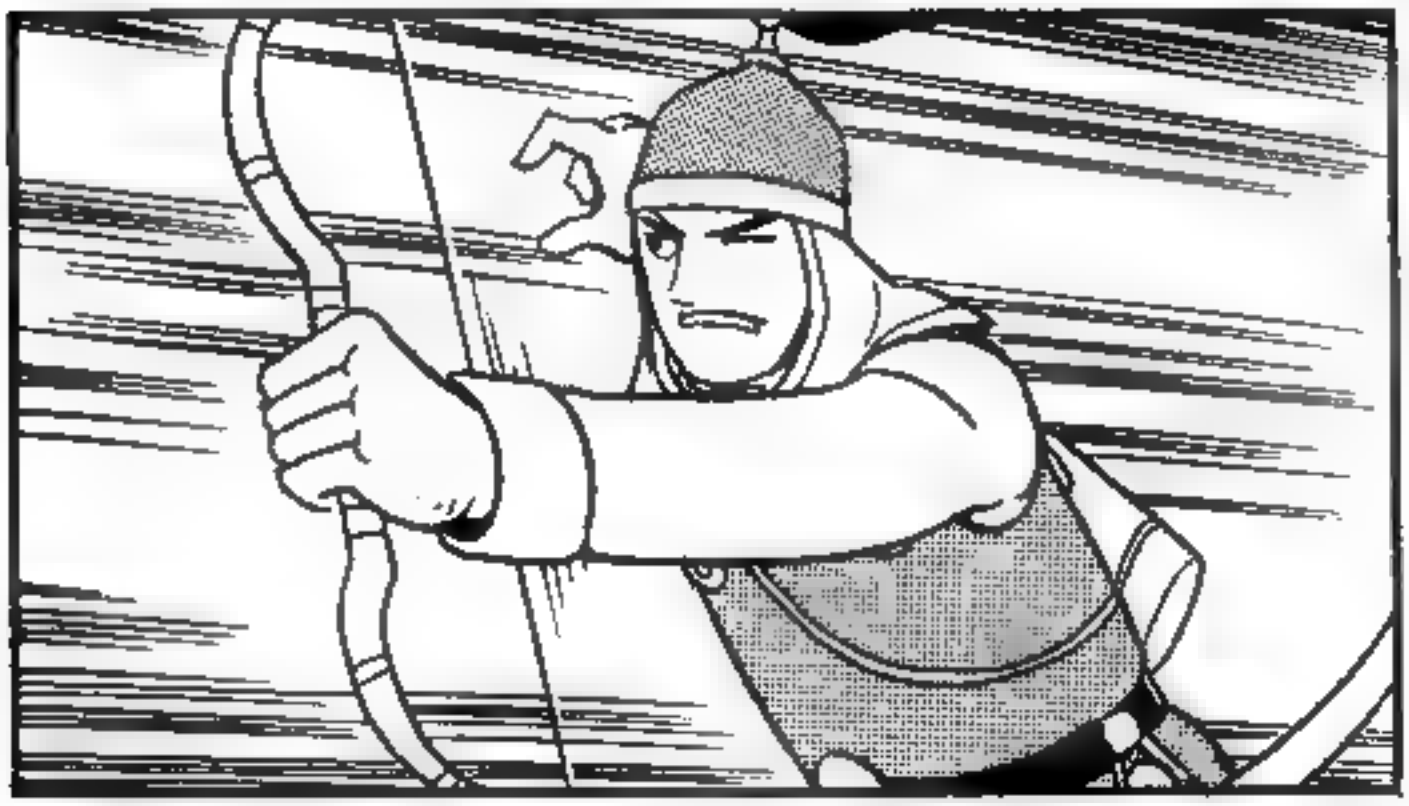
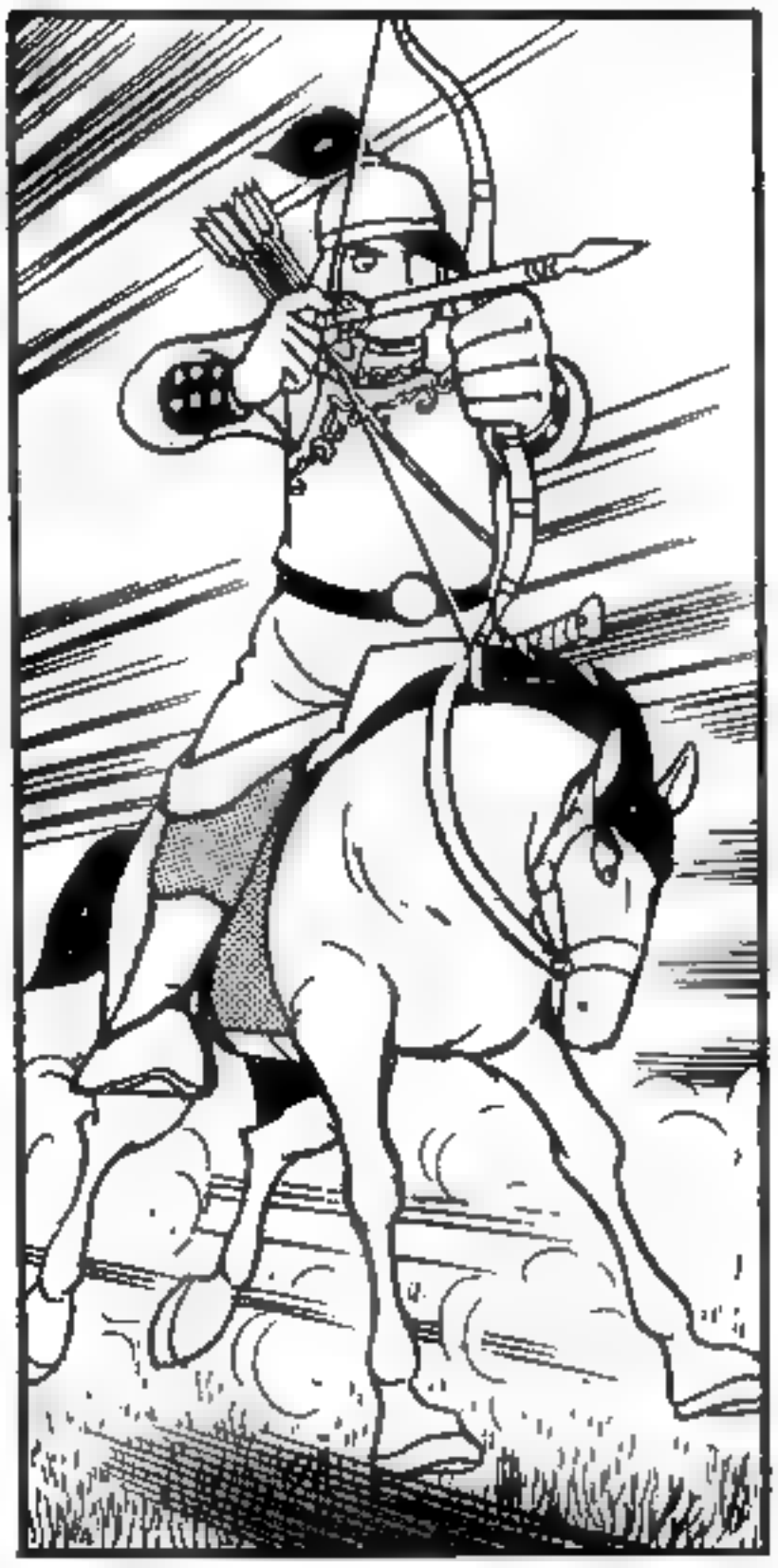
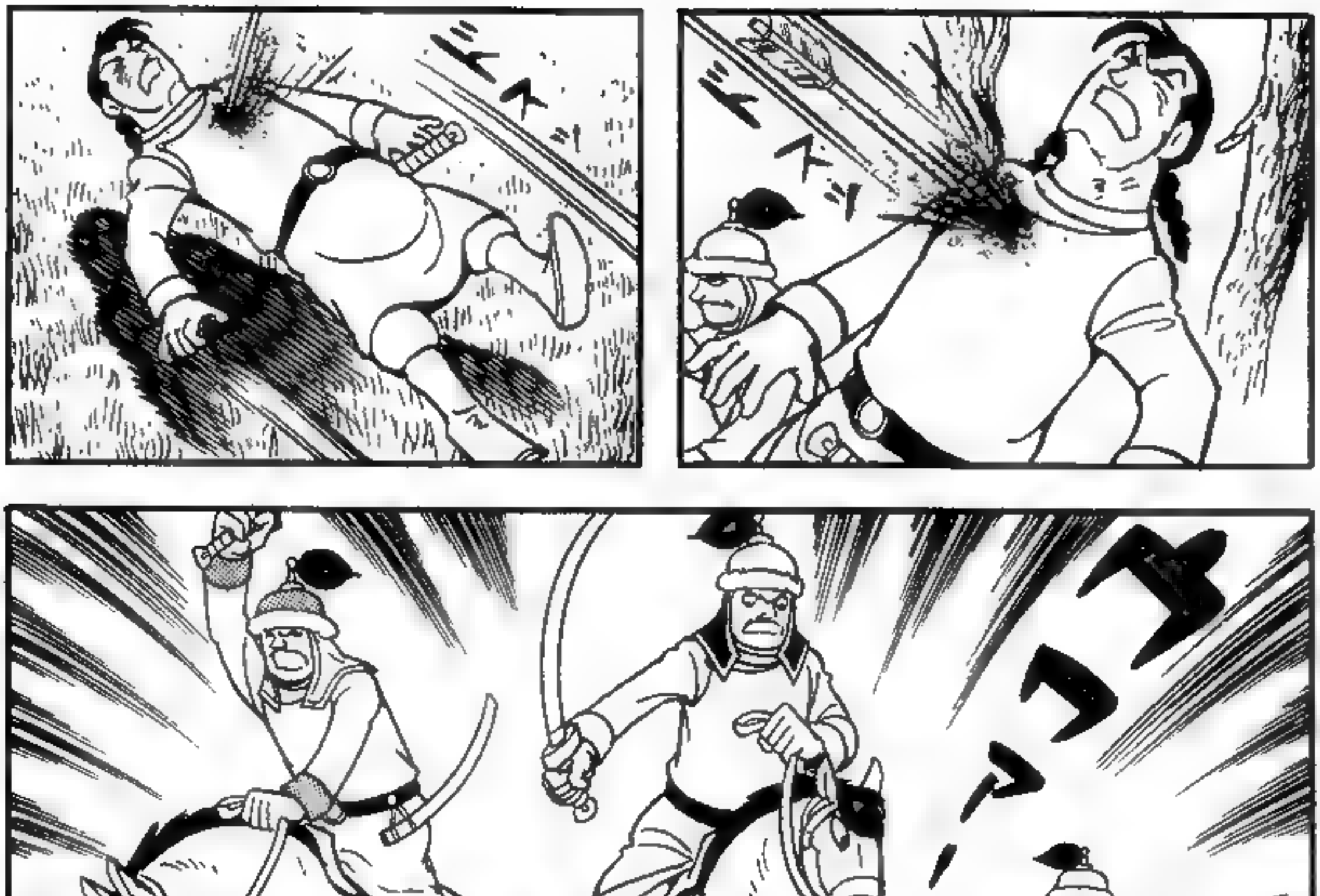


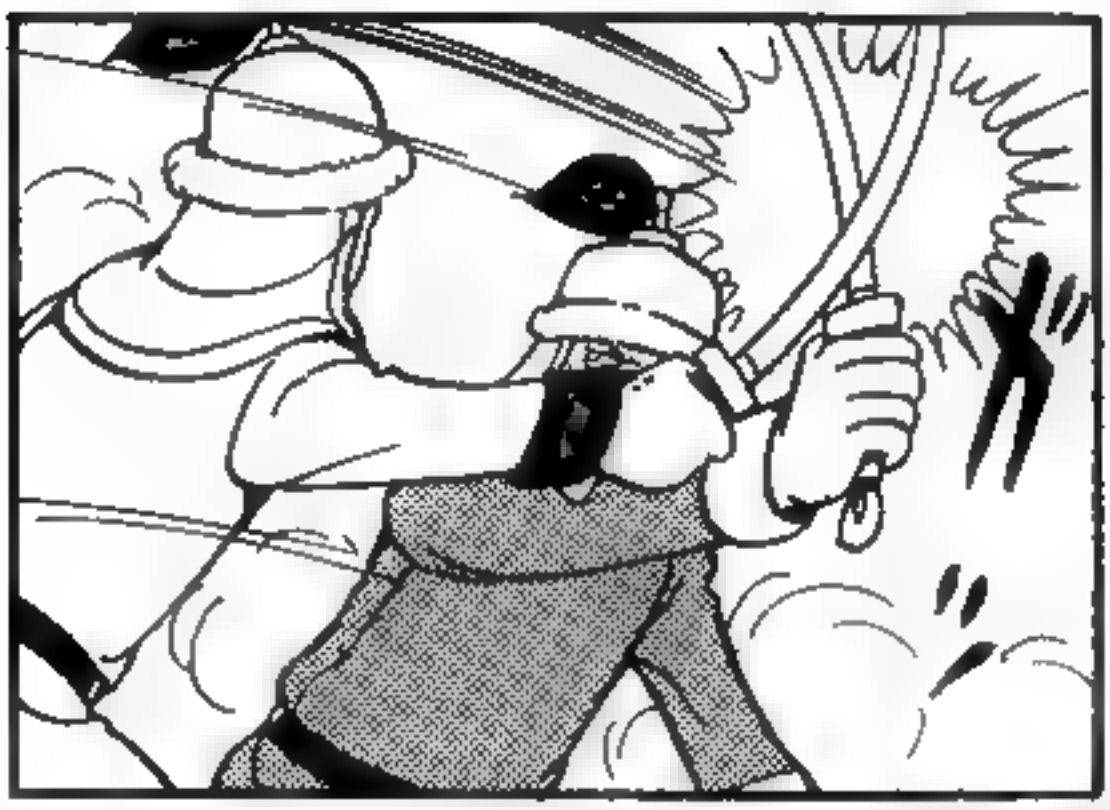


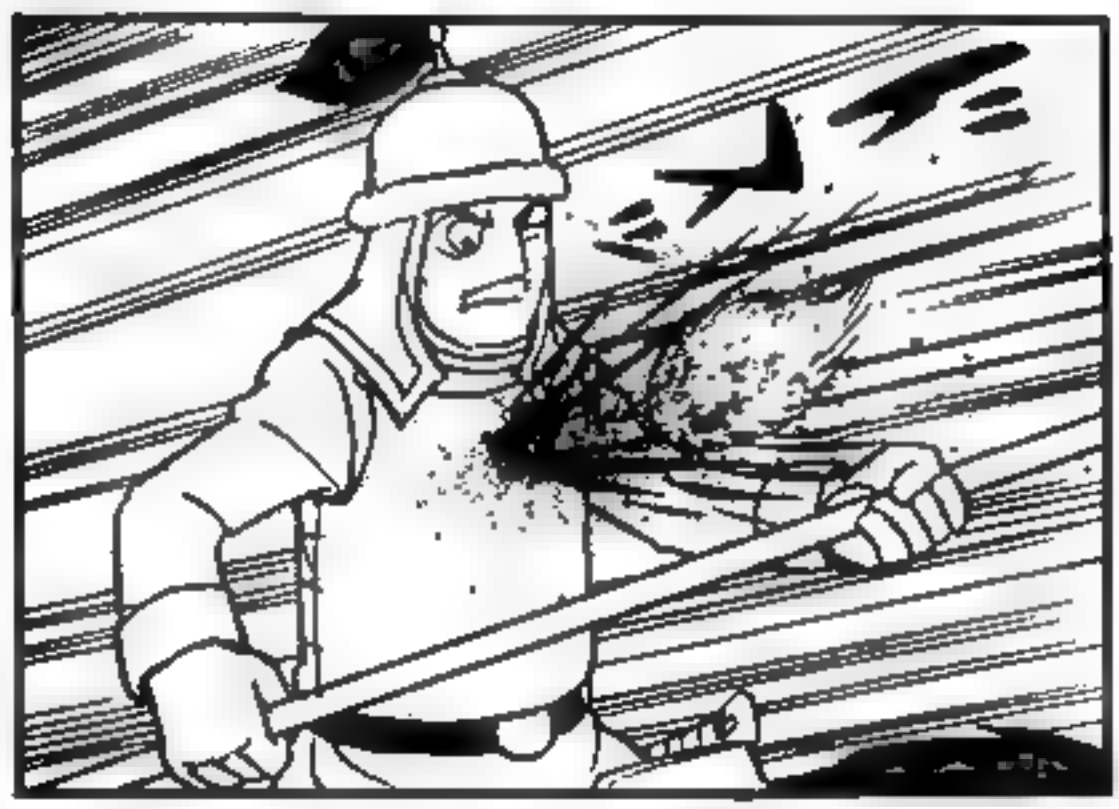







DO NOT FALTER! THEIR LEADER IS JUST A CALLOW RUNT!





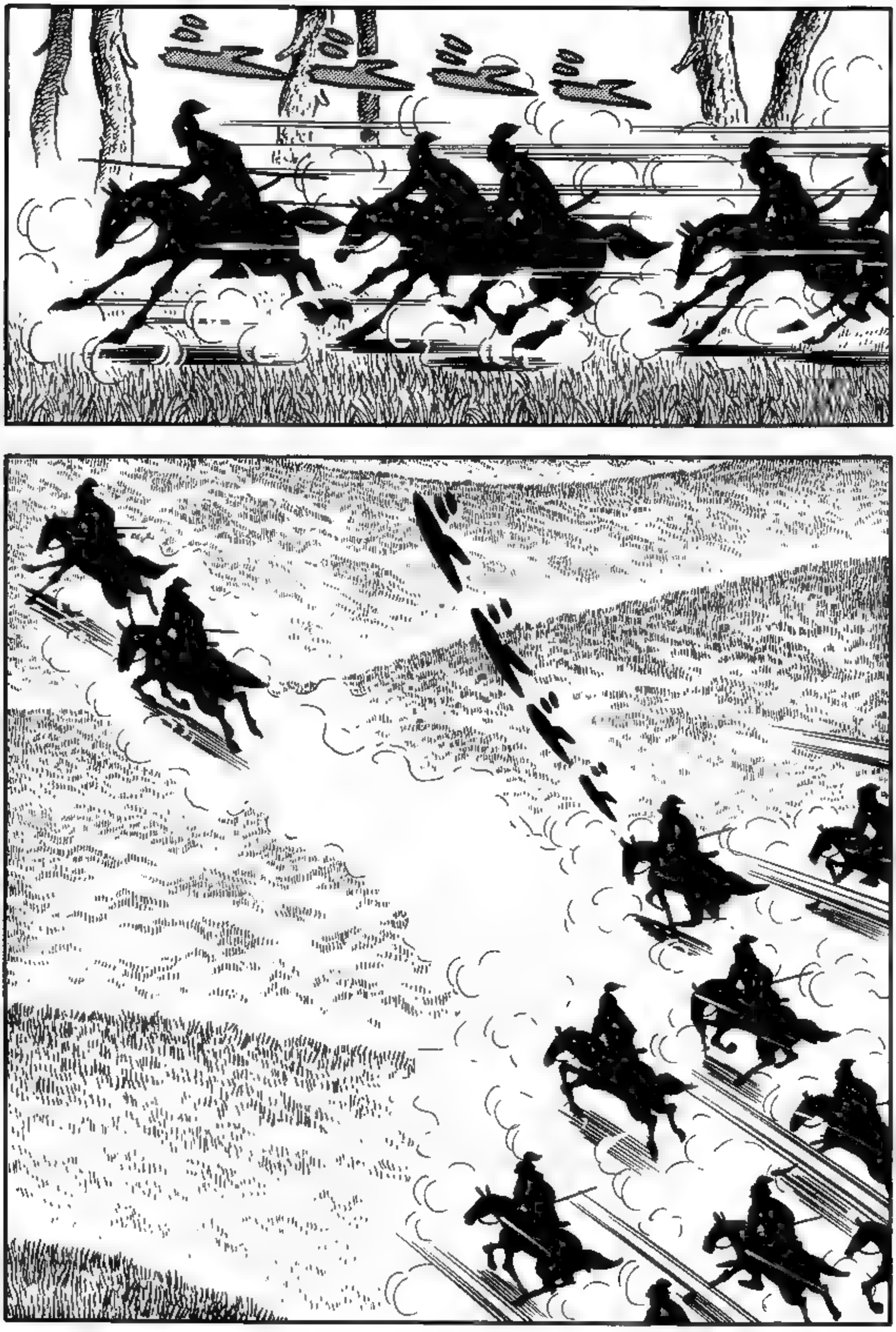
HOWEVER, TEMUCHIN AND HIS TRIBESMEN WERE NO CALLOW CUBS THEY WERE FULL GROWN WOLVES BARING THEIR CLAWS AND FANGS

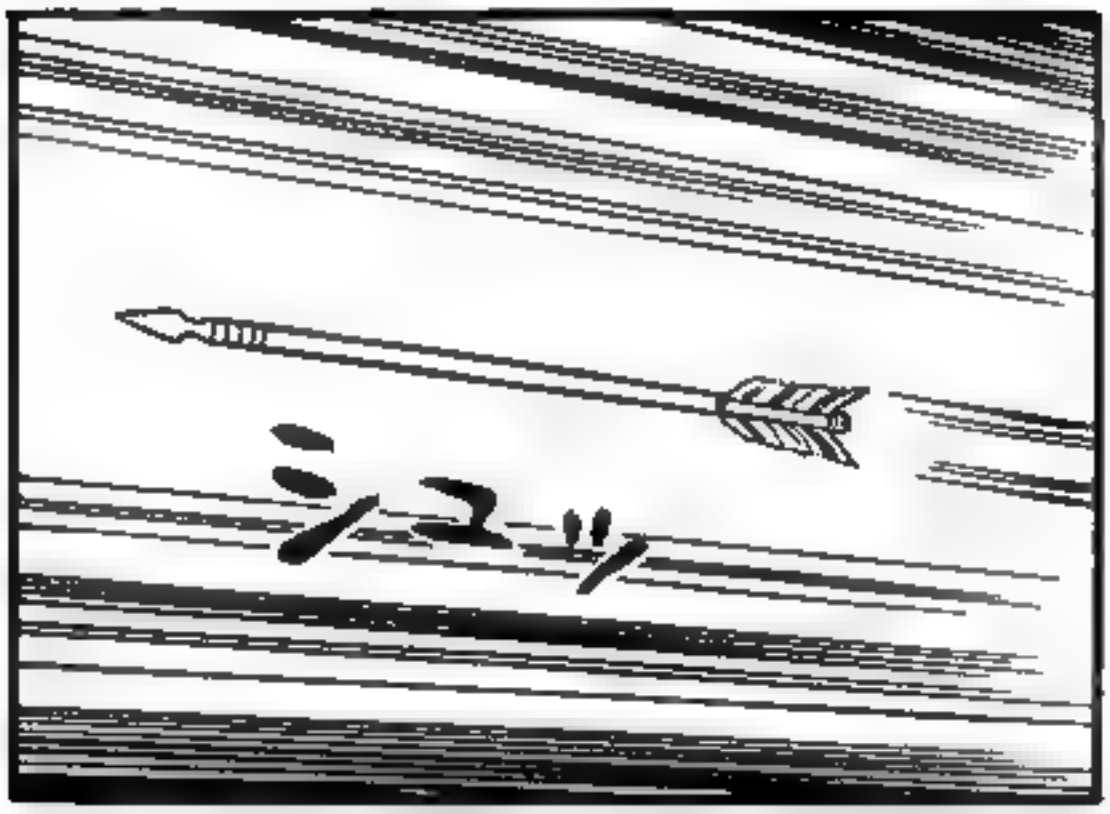
YES...

BROTHER, WE CANNOT HOLD OUR GROUND HERE ANY LONGER. WE MUST WITHDRAW FOR THE TIME BEING!

DON'T LET THEM ESCAPE!

SACHA-BEKI! TAICHU! YOU DARE RUN AWAY NOW!?

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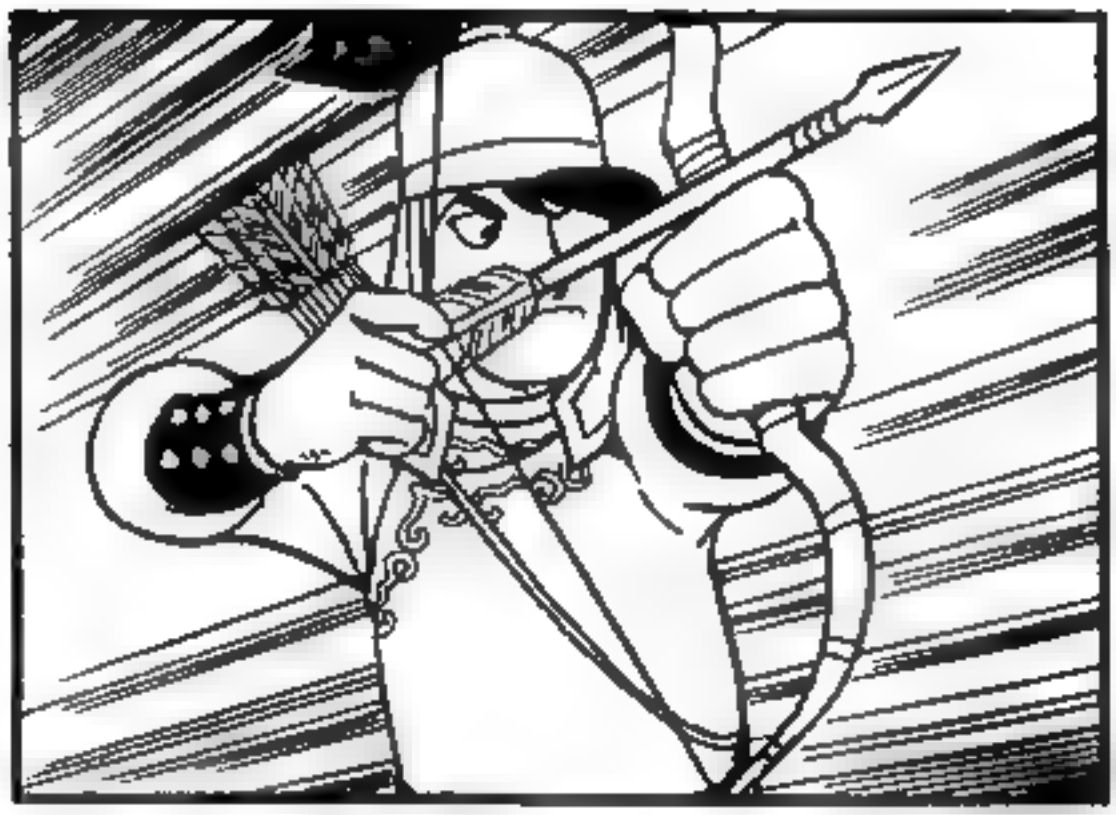
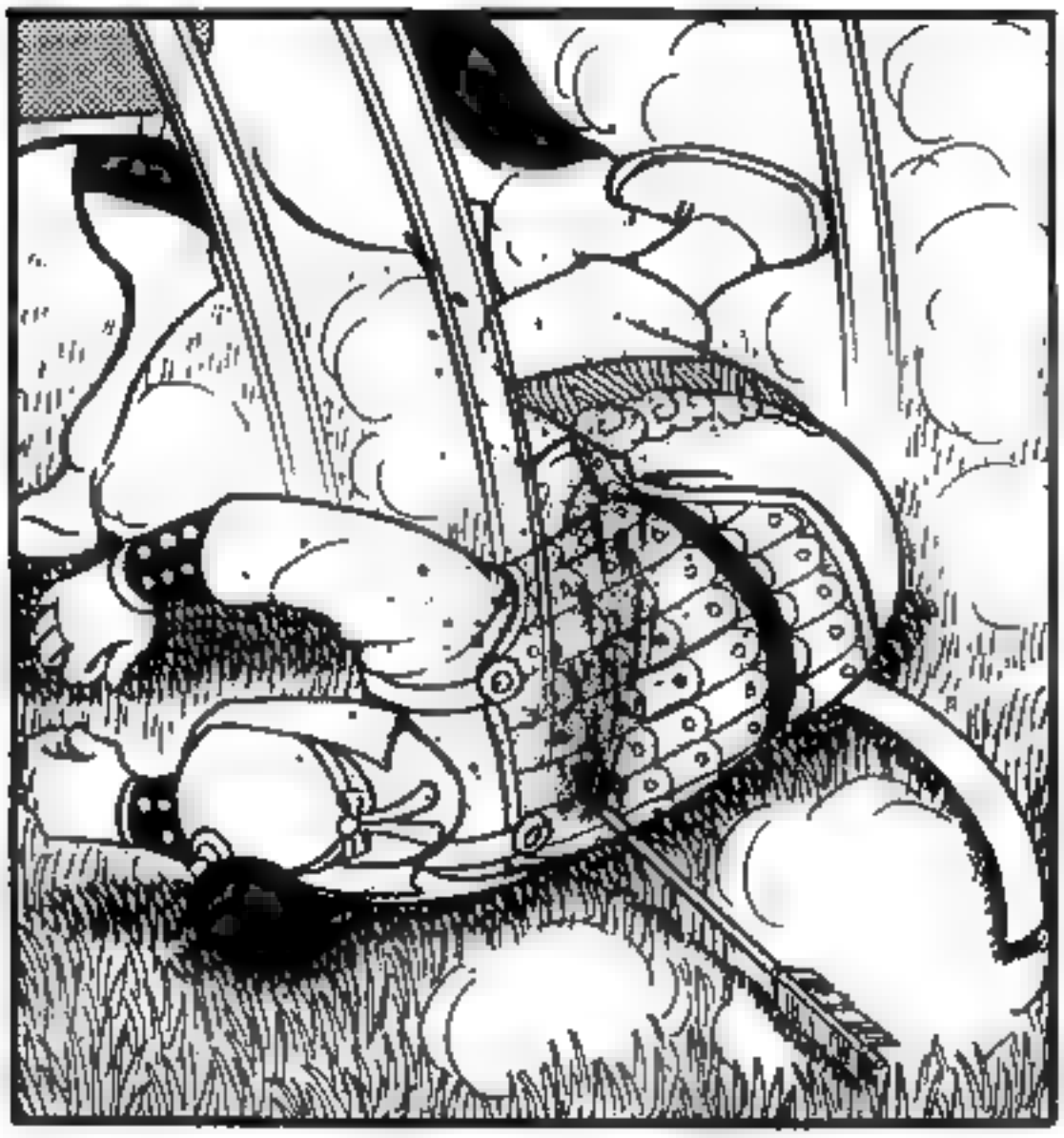
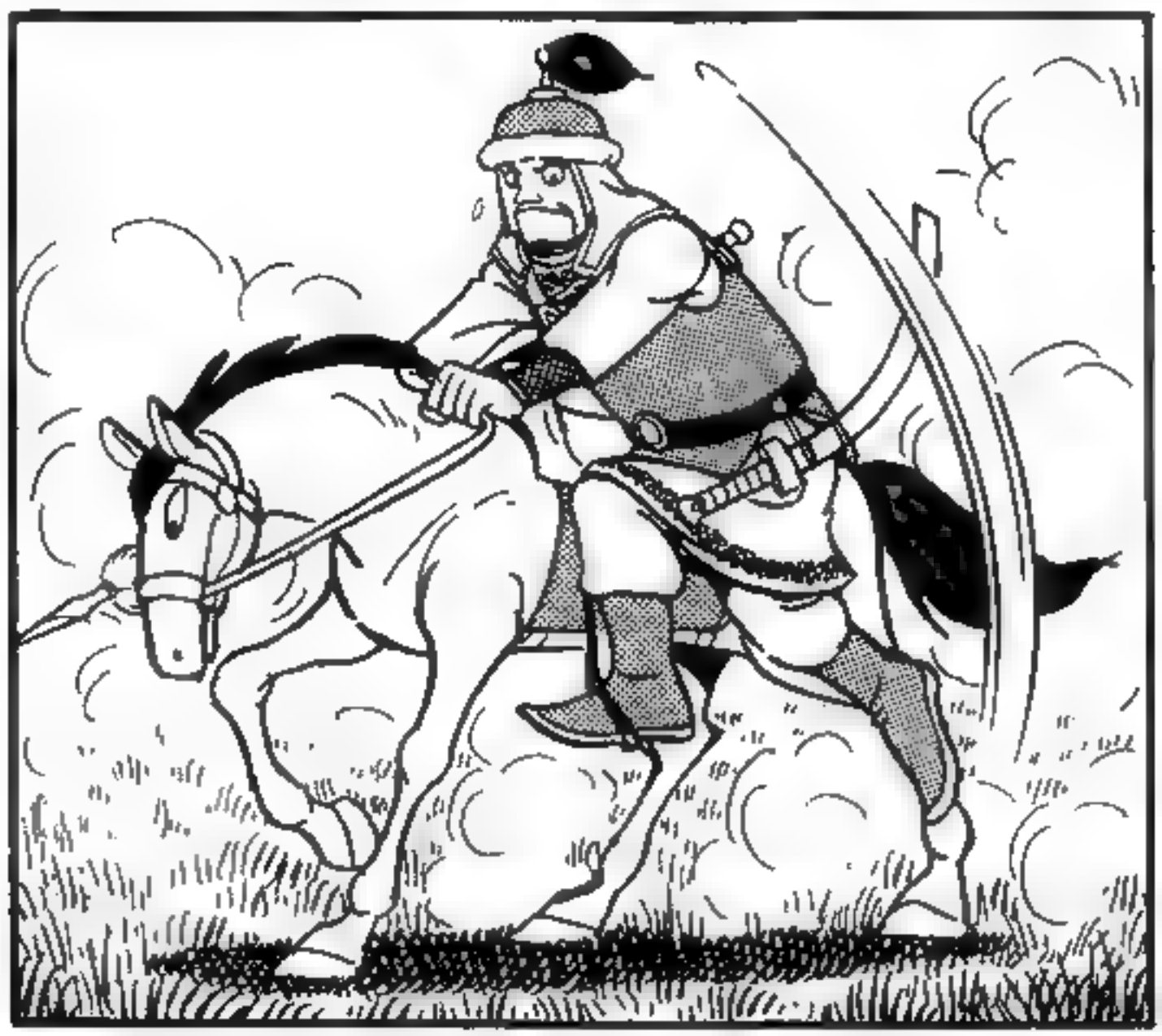




AGH!



BROTHER!

MNN...

BROTHER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

IT SEEMS OUR TIME HAS COME...

SACHA-BEKI AND TAICHU! EXPLAIN YOUR TREACHERY!

SIMPLE! WE CANNOT RECOGNIZE YOUR AUTHORITY!

WE JURKINS ARE DESCENDED FROM KABUL KHAN'S STRONGEST AND ELDEST SON! THE NAME "JURKIN" ITSELF WAS USED TO ORIGINALLY DENOTE OUR SUPERIOR STRENGTH AND FEROCITY. IT IS ONLY PROPER FOR A JURKIN TO LEAD THE MONGOLS, NOT YOU!

HMPH! YOU WERE MERELY A DISSATIS-FACTORY COMPROMISE AS NO SINGLE TRIBE LEADER COULD CONVINCE THE OTHERS TO VOTE FOR HIM.

THEN WHY DID YOU JOIN MY CAMP AND AGREE TO ELECT ME AS YOUR KHAN?

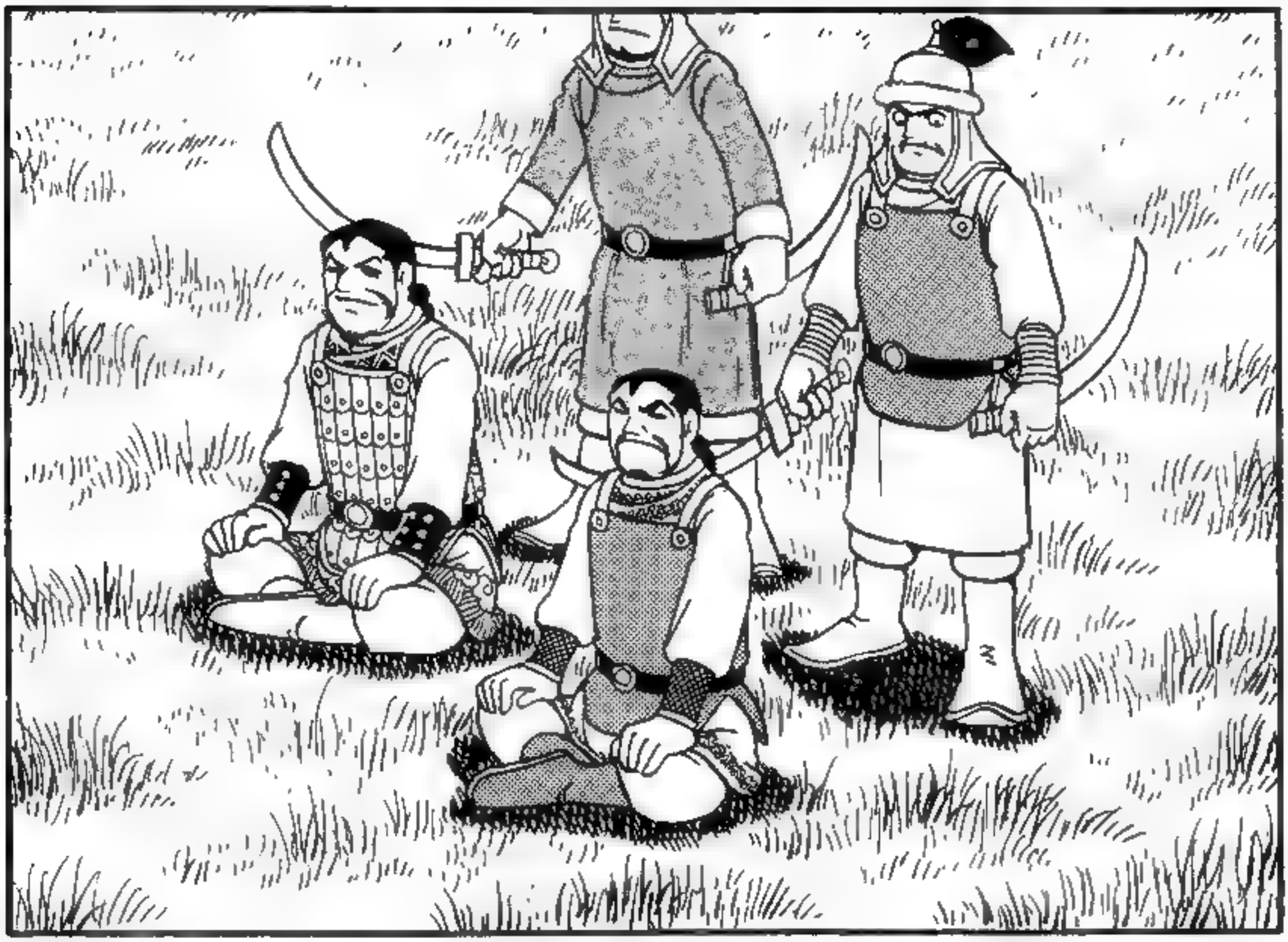
BE THAT AS IT MAY, ONCE YOU HAVE ELECTED ME AS YOUR KHAN, YOU MUST OBEY MY RULE. TO ACT OTHERWISE IS TREASON.

VERY WELL.

YES, WE ARE MORE THAN WELL AWARE OF THE LAW OF THE STEPPE! WE WILL COMPLAIN NO MORE SO DO AS YOU WILL UNTO US!

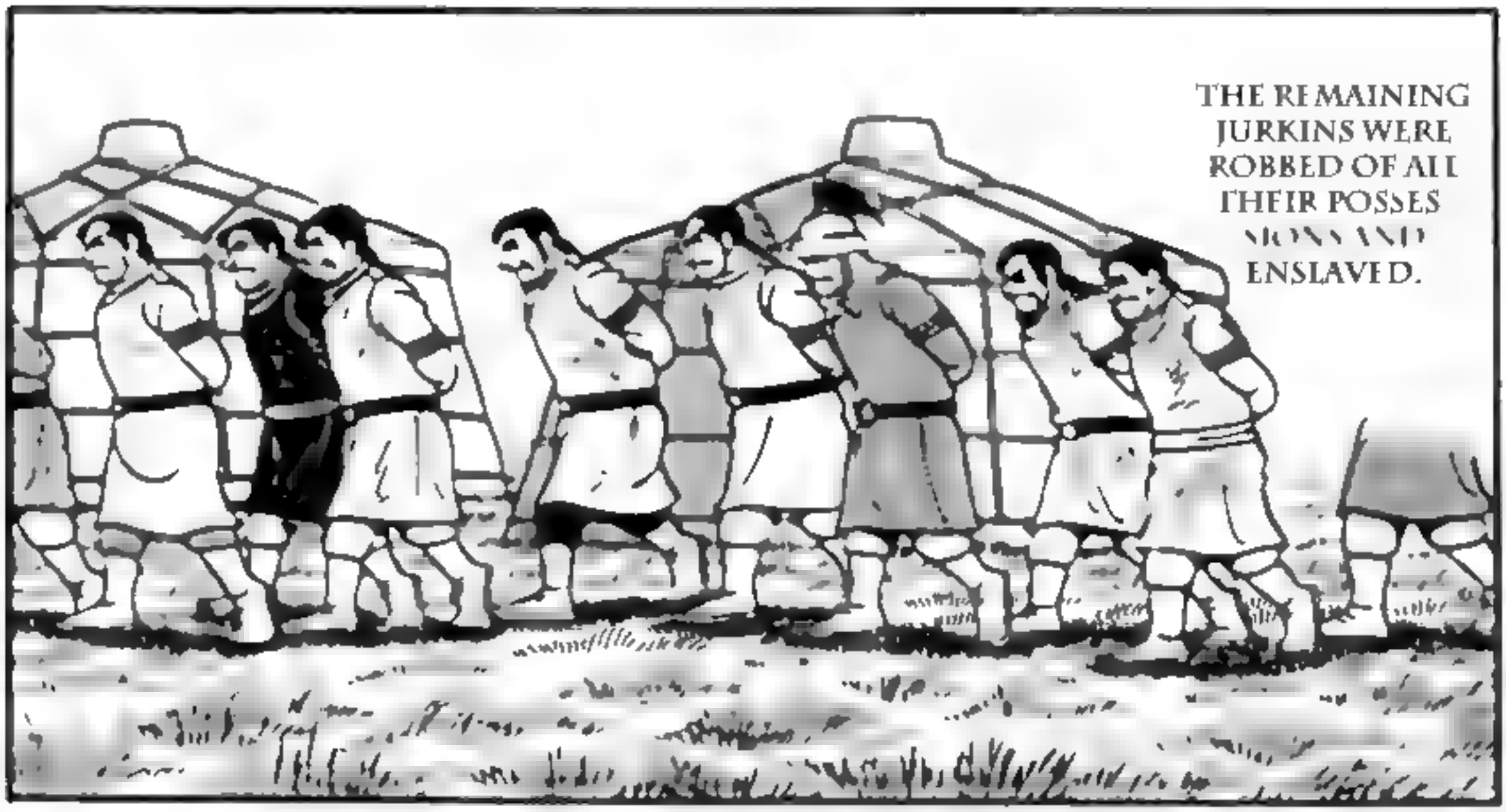
YES, KHAN.

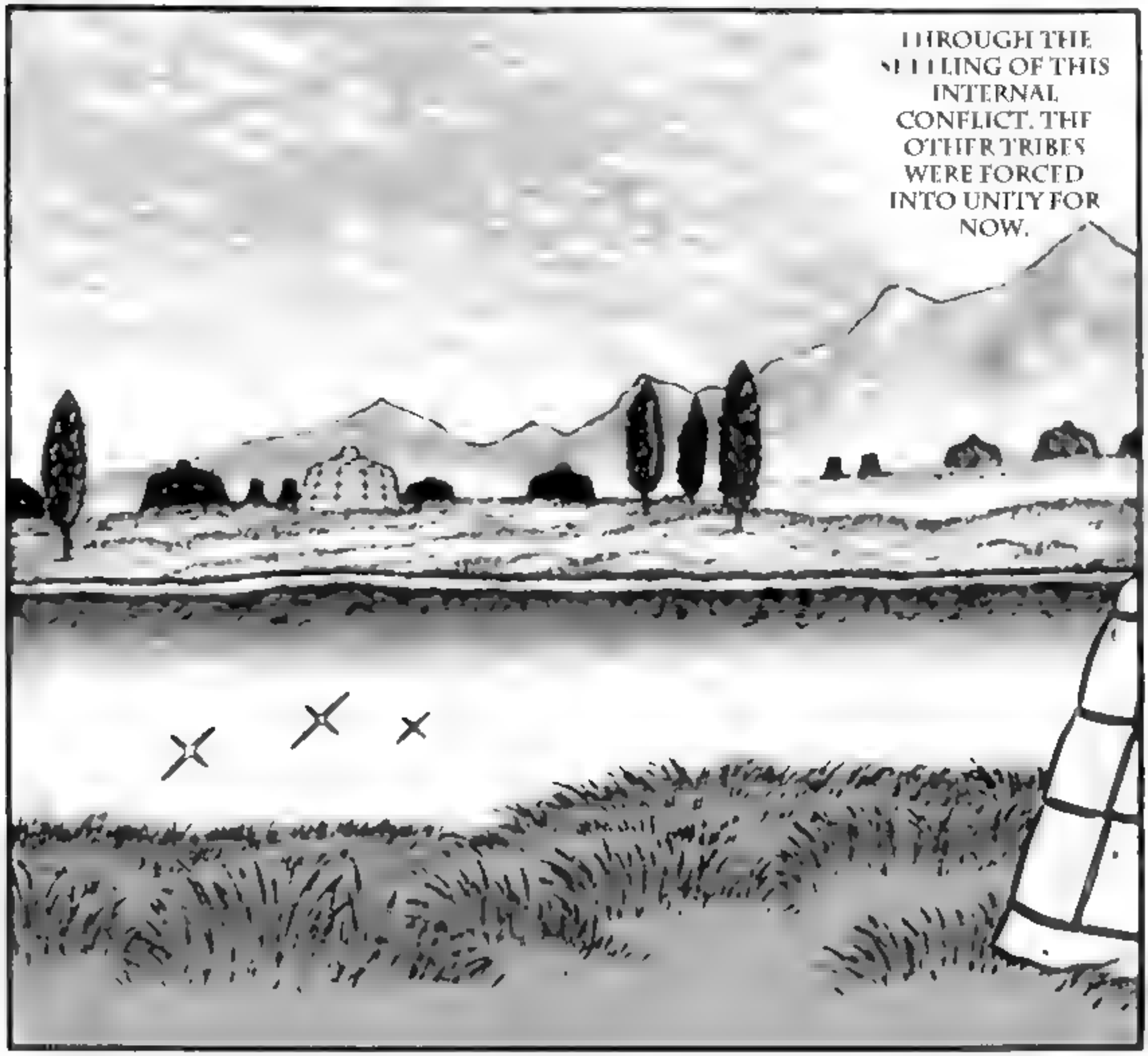
OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!



YOU FOOLS... CAN YOU NOT REALIZE THAT WE MONGOLS ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS WE ARE UNITED?

LET US WITHDRAW TO OUR CAMPS!


THE REMAINING JURKINS WERE ROBBED OF ALL THEIR POSSES
ENSLAVED.


THROUGH THE
SETTLING OF THIS
INTERNAL
CONFLICT, THE
OTHER TRIBES
WERE FORCED
INTO UNITY FOR
NOW.

Battle of Köyitän

SEVERAL YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE THE SUBJUGATION OF THE JURKINS, BUT POWER IN EASTERN MONGOLIA REMAINED DIVIDED AMONG THREE MEN: WANG KHAN OF THE KEREITS, JAMUKA OF THE JADARATS, AND TEMUCHIN OF THE MONGOLS.

1201 A.D. TRIBES WHO WERE ANTI-MONGOL AND KEREITS BEGAN TO GATHER UNDER JAMUKA'S BANNER.

THESE INCLUDED REMNANTS OF THE NAIMAN, MERKIT, AND TARTAR TRIBES WHO WERE DEFEATED BY TOGHRUL AND TEMUCHIN IN THE PAST.

*GURKHAN MONGOLIAN TITLE FOR "CHIEF OF KHANS" OR "SUPREME KHAN"

JAMUKA GURKHAN, ARE YOU CONTENT WITH THE LIKES OF TOGHRUL AND TEMUCHIN GOING AROUND CALLING THEMSELVES KHAN?

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED A MAN SHOULD HARBOUR GREAT ASPIRATIONS.

TOGHRUL IS ALREADY IN HIS SIXTIES. HE WILL BE SENILE BEFORE LONG.

EXACTLY. AS LARGE AS POSSIBLE.

MEANWHILE, TEMUCHIN IS STILL TOO YOUNG. HE IS INFERIOR TO YOU IN AGE, EXPERIENCE, MENTAL AND PHYSICAL VIGOUR. IT IS ONLY RIGHT THAT YOU CRUSH THEM TO BECOME THE SUPREME RULER OF THE STEPPE.

YES, AND AS FOR THE KEREITS, TOGHRUL'S ONCE SHARP WIT IS SUCCUMBING TO OLD AGE AND HIS HEIR SENGGUM IS JUST A FOOLISH BOAR.

THE MONGOLS ARE NOT AS STRONG AS THEY APPEAR. I HEAR THERE HAS BEEN INTERNAL DISSENSION AND THAT THEIR TRIBAL CHIEFS ONLY ELECTED TEMUCHIN AS KHAN TO USE AS A PUPPET RULER FOR THEIR OWN PERSONAL GAINS.

THAT IS MUCH EASIER SAID THAN DONE. WITH THE STEPPE DIVIDED INTO 3 POWERS, TAKING ON 2 AT ONCE IS A SURE PATH TO DESTRUCTION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE HAVE ALL WILLINGLY GATHERED UNDER YOUR BANNER AND ELECTED YOU AS OUR GURKHAN. WE WOULD NOT HESITATE TO GIVE OUR LIVES TO HELP YOU DEFEAT TOGHRUL AND TEMUCHIN.

THESE COMMENTS STRUCK A PLEASANT CHORD WITH JAMUKA, WHO HAD ALWAYS DREAMED OF RULING THE STEPPE

WHO ARE YOU?

IS TEMUCHIN KHAN HERE?

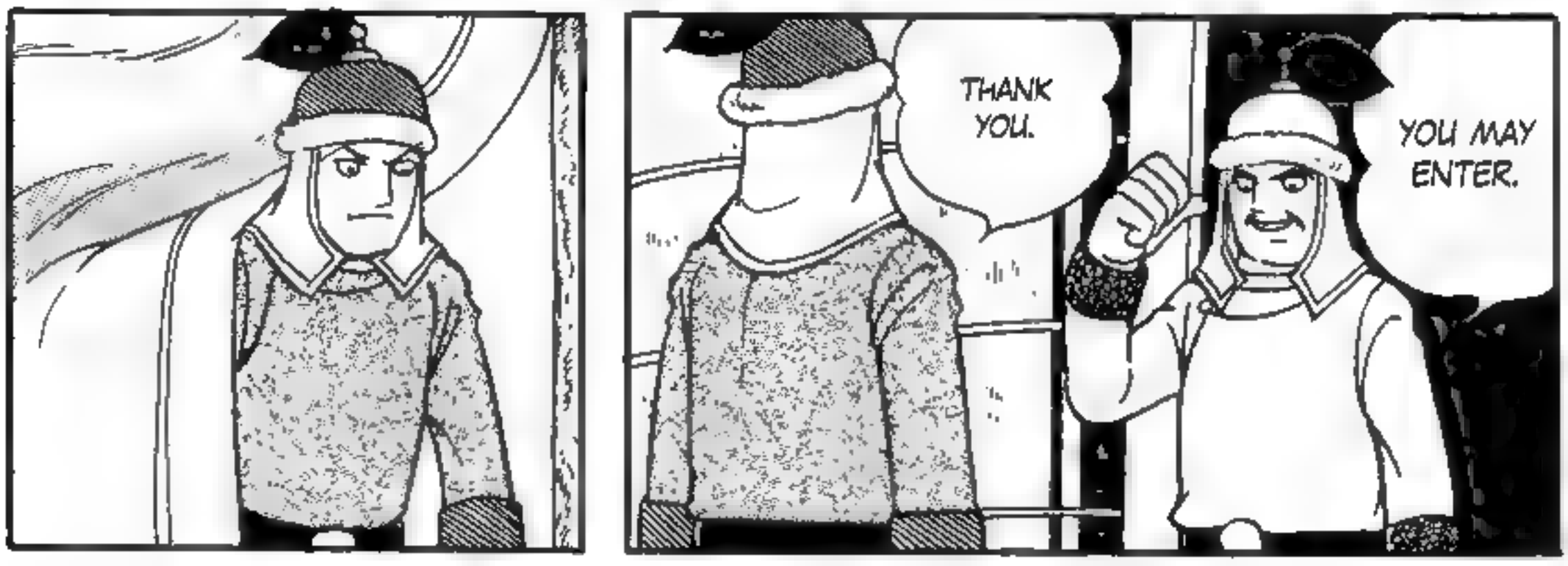
VERY WELL.

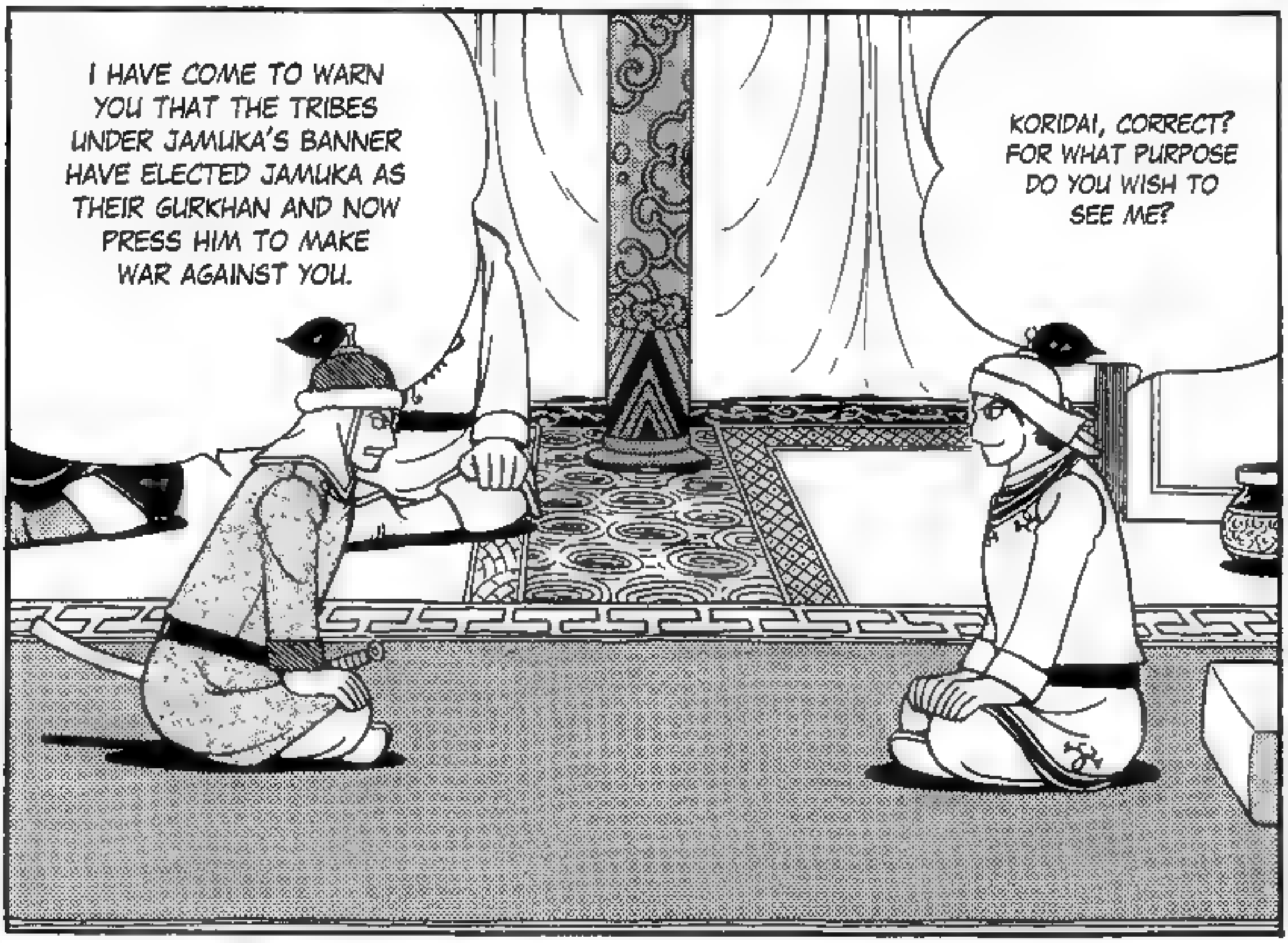
I AM KORIDAI OF THE KORLOAS TRIBE. I MUST SPEAK WITH TEMUCHIN KHAN URGENTLY!

WAIT HERE.

KHAN, A MAN NAMED KORIDAI FROM THE KOROLOAS TRIBE SAYS HE HAS SOME URGENT MESSAGE FOR YOU.

FINE, LET HIM IN.


THANK YOU.
YOU MAY ENTER.


I HAVE COME TO WARN YOU THAT THE TRIBES UNDER JAMUKA'S BANNER HAVE ELECTED JAMUKA AS THEIR GURKHAN AND NOW PRESS HIM TO MAKE WAR AGAINST YOU.
KORIDAI, CORRECT? FOR WHAT PURPOSE DO YOU WISH TO SEE ME?

MERKITS, TARTARS, NAIMANS, TAYICHI'UTS... THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TRIBES WHO HAVE EITHER BEEN DEFEATED OR THREATENED BY YOU ENOUGH TO SEEK JADARAT PROTECTION.

WHAT!?

MY PLEASURE.

THANK YOU FOR WARNING ME.

SO THE VARIOUS TRIBES ARE FORMING AN ALLIANCE LED BY JAMUKA TO OPPOSE ME, ARE THEY NOW...

YES.

KASAR, GIVE THIS FRIEND OF OURS A REWARD AND A GOOD DRINK.

YES.

BELGUTEI, GO ALERT TOGHRUL KHAN RIGHT AWAY.

YES.

KACHUN! TEMUGE! JELME! CALL OUR FELLOW TRIBES FOR WAR AGAINST JAMUKA!

THE PEOPLE WERE ROUSED TO FRANTIC ACTIVITY AGAIN

BEFORE LONG, TOGHRUL KHAN HAD ARRIVED WITH HIS ARMY, PREPARED TO DEFEND THE MONGOLIAN GERS.

YES, WE CAN MARCH OUT ANYTIME NOW.

ARE YOU FINISHED WITH YOUR PREPARATIONS?

YES, I AM AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BATTLE.

THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE STEPPE, WHETHER IT WILL BELONG TO US OR JAMUKA, RESTS ON THE COMING BTTLE.

HMM, WE MUST DIVIDE AND CONQUER OUR ENEMIES THEN.

MY SCOUTS REPORT THAT OUR ENEMIES ARE GATHERING AN ENORMOUS NUMBER OF FORCES ALONG THE SELENGE, ORKHON, ONON, AND KERULEN RIVERS.

YES.

THE MERKIT AND TARTAR REMNANTS ARE NOTHING TO FEAR. WE NEED ONLY WORRY ABOUT THE JAMUKA'S JADARATS AND THE TAYICHI'UTS WHO BETRAYED YOUR FAMILY IN YOUR YOUTH.

UNDER-STOOD.

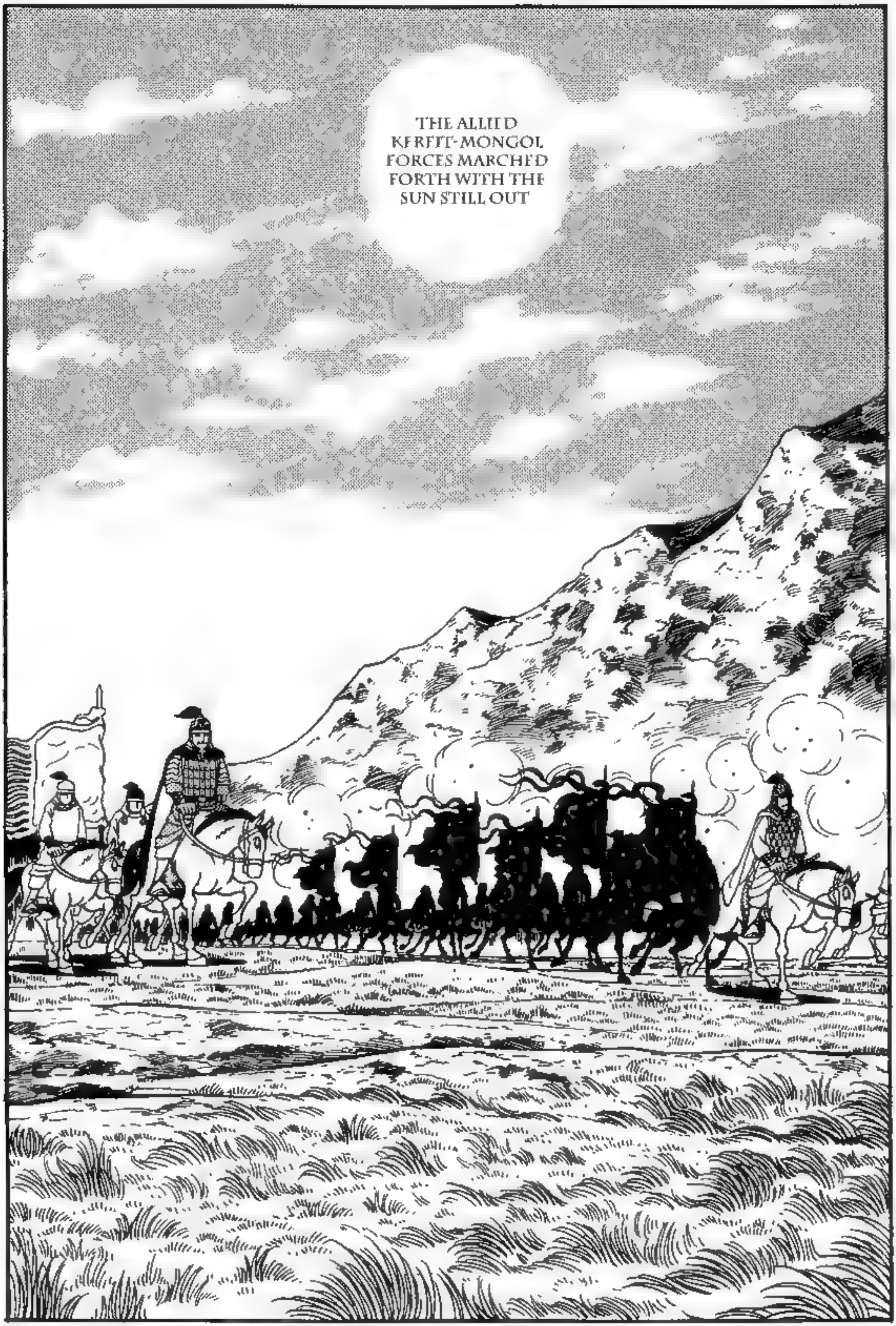
I WILL ENGAGE JAMUKA'S MAIN FORCES WHILE YOU TAKE ON THE TAYICHI'UTS, SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE YOUR REVENGE.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MUST ADMIT, THOUGH, THAT JAMUKA'S A MORE CAPABLE MAN THAN I HAD THOUGHT.

YES, THAT IS NO EASY FEAT.

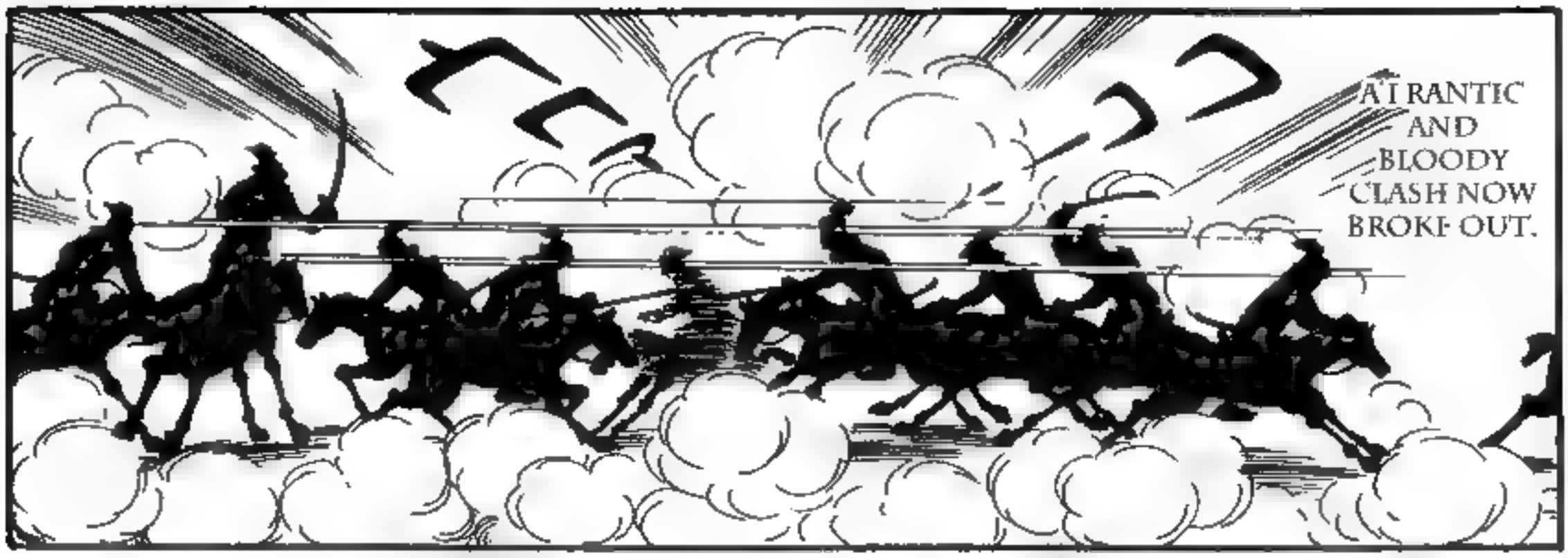
WELL, HE'S MANAGED TO UNITE ALL THE NORMALLY BICKERING TRIBES AND HAVE THEM SUPPORT HIS CLAIM AS THE SUPREME KHAN.

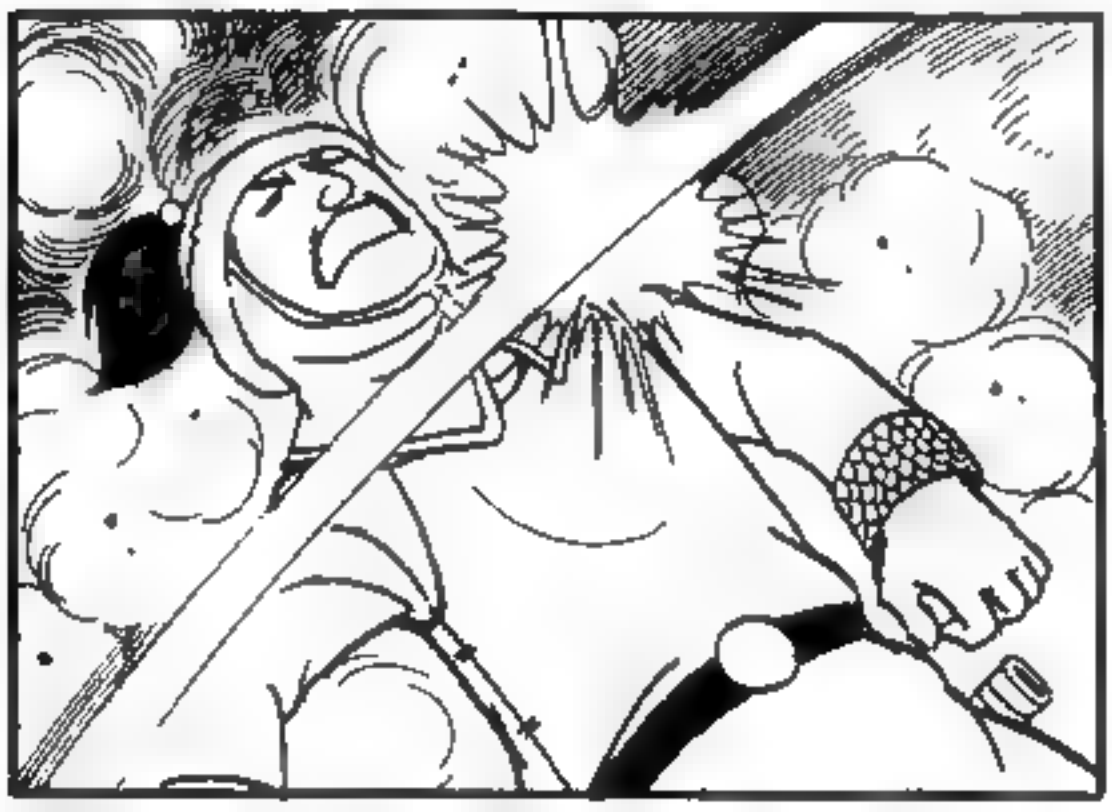

THE ALLIED
KERFIT-MONGOL
FORCES MARCHED
FORTH WITH THE
SUN STILL OUT

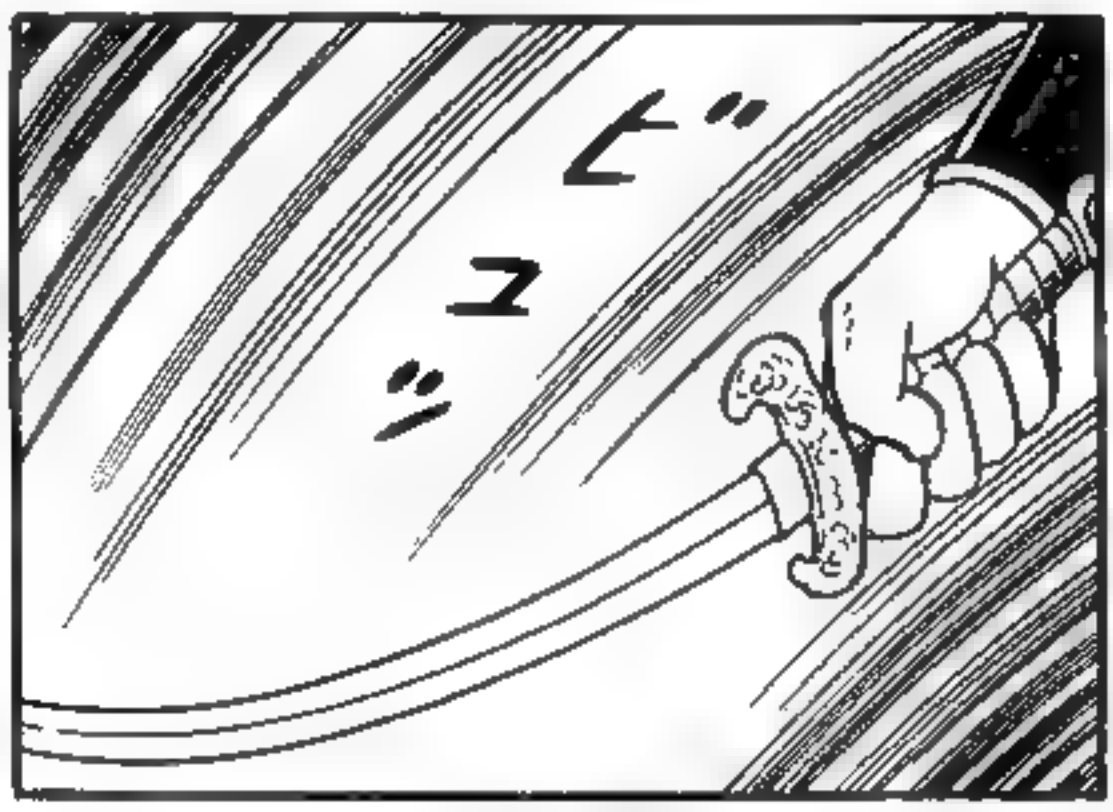
THE OPPOSING FORCES FACED EACH OFF AT KÖYITAN (FROZEN FIELD), NEAR THE KHALKHA RIVER.

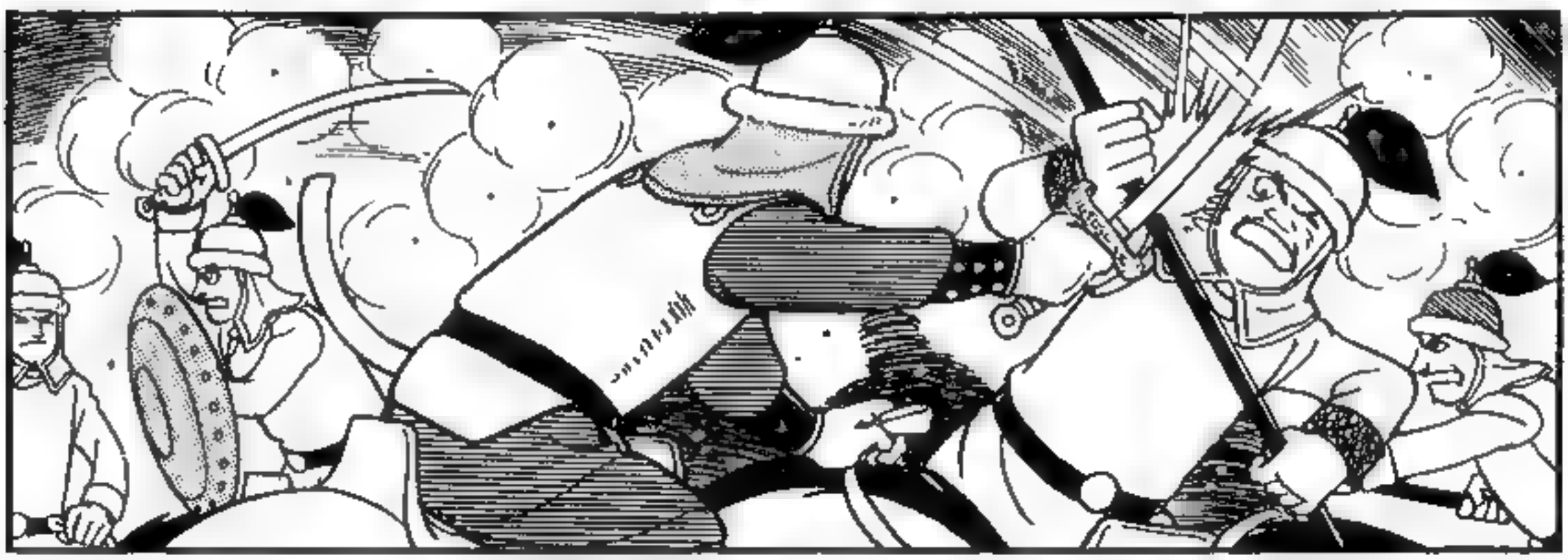
JAMUKA'S FORCES TOOK THE OFFENSIVE

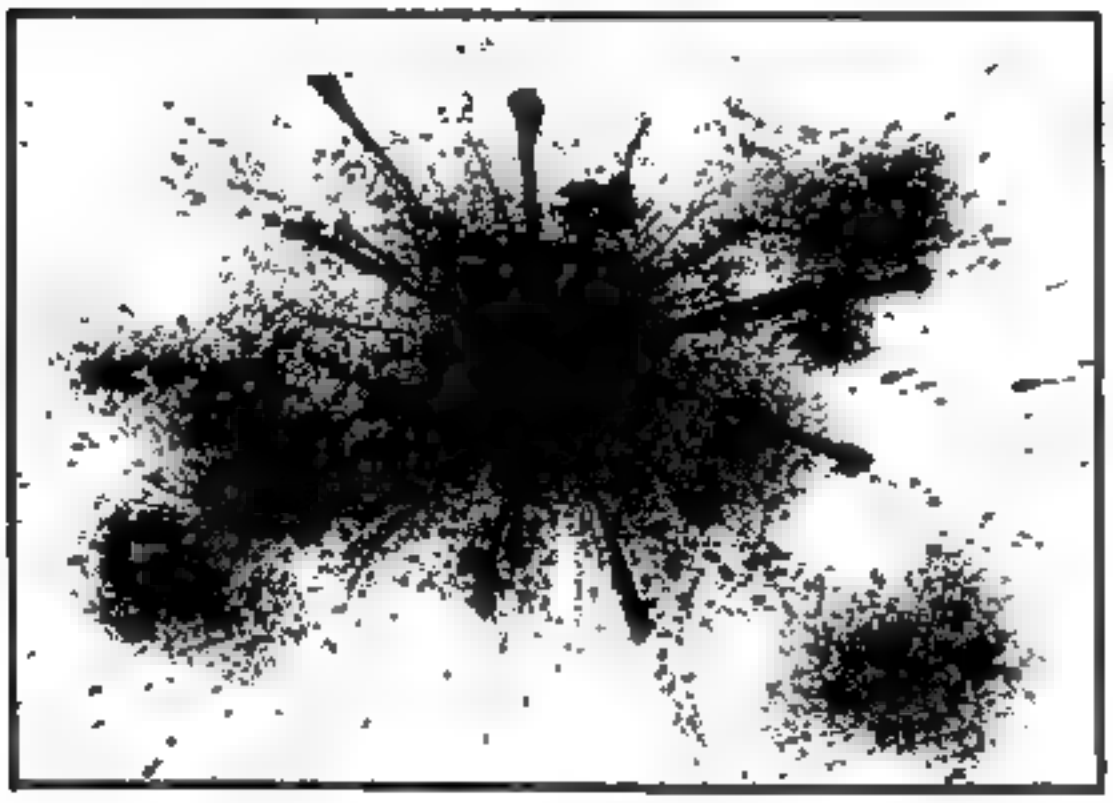
ALL PRESENT AT THE BATTLEFIELD KNEW JUST HIGH THE STAKES WERE.

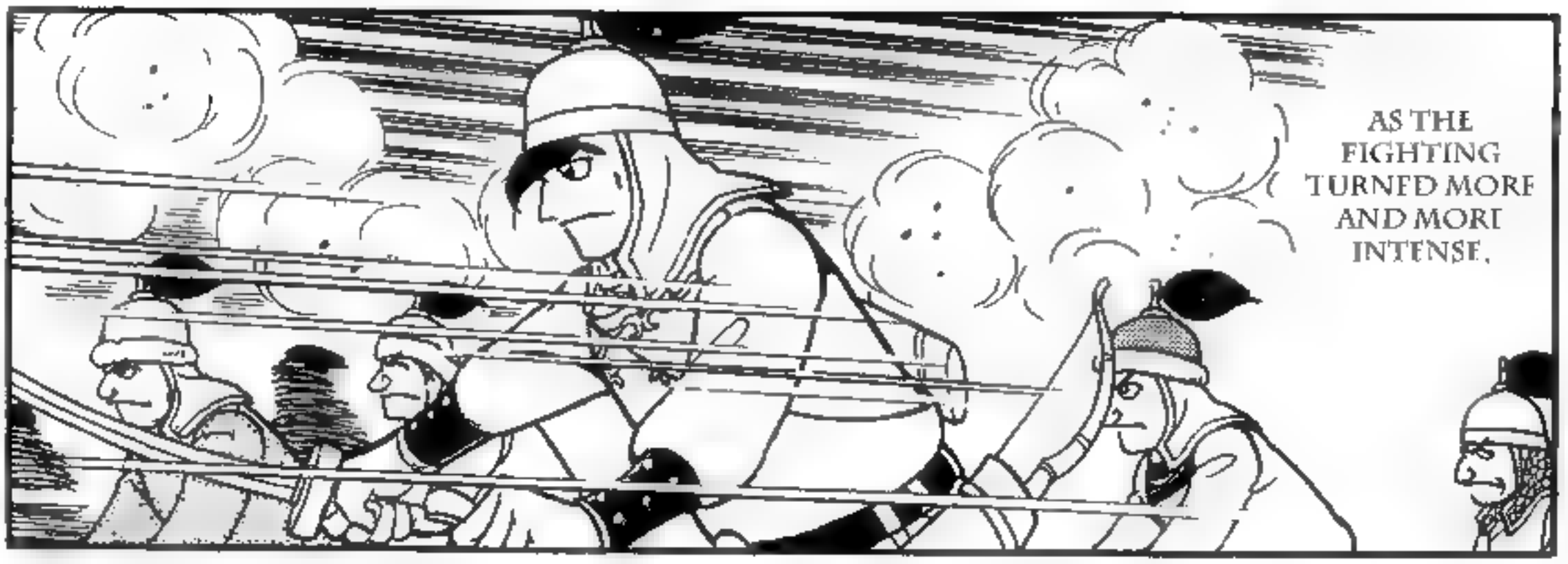

A FRANTIC AND BLOODY CLASH NOW BROKE OUT.





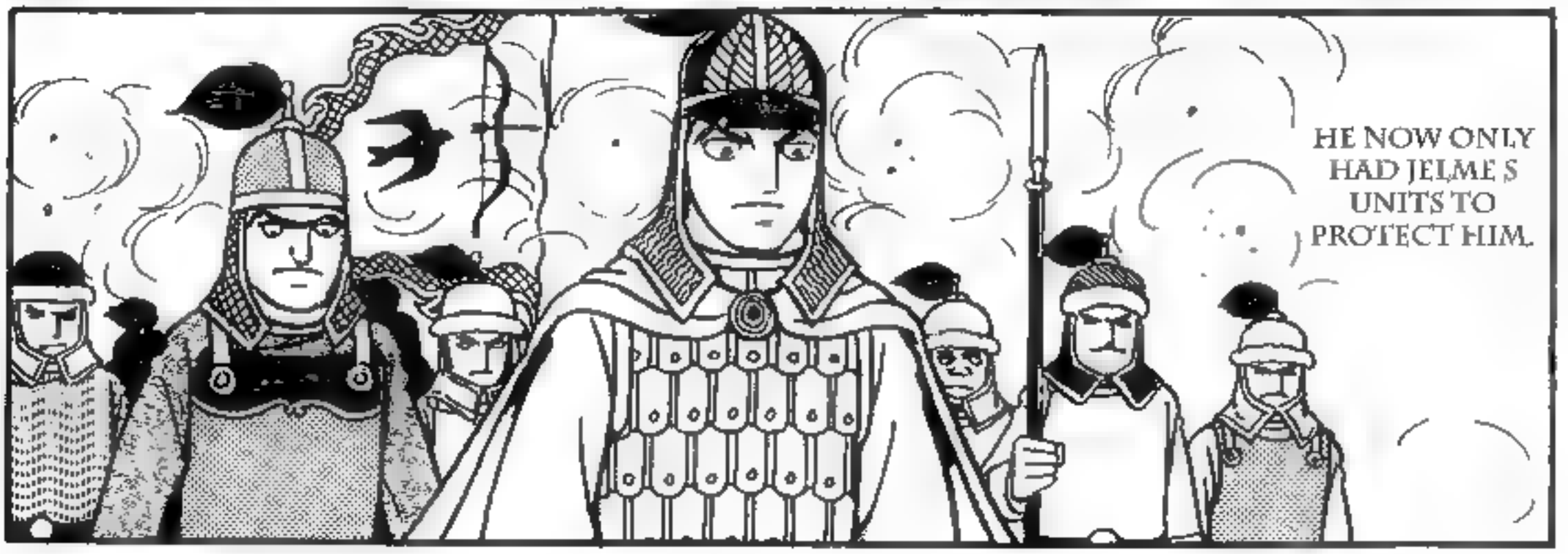





AS THE FIGHTING TURNED MORE AND MORE INTENSE,

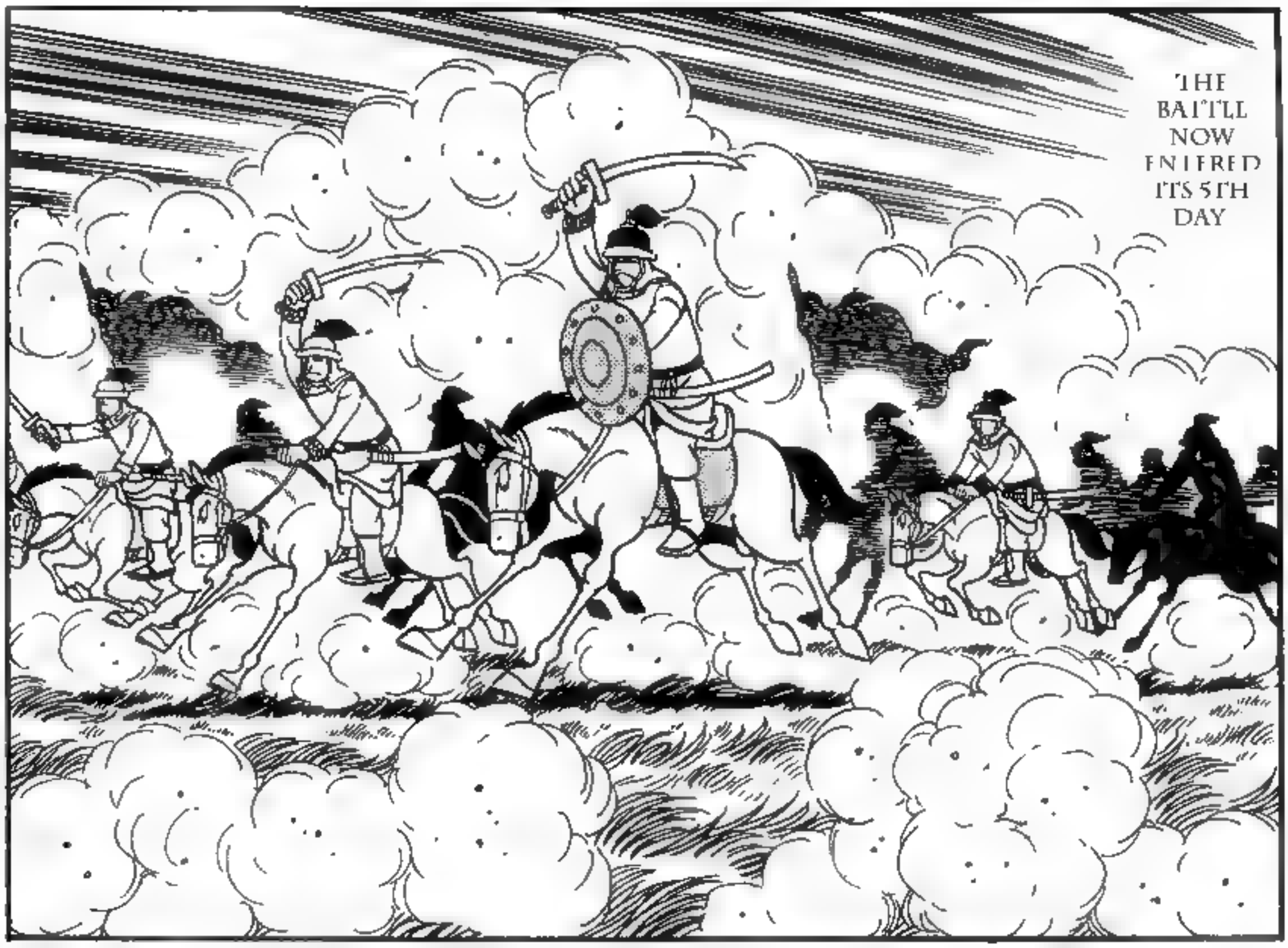
JEMUCHIN COULD NOT SPARE TO HOLD RESERVES,

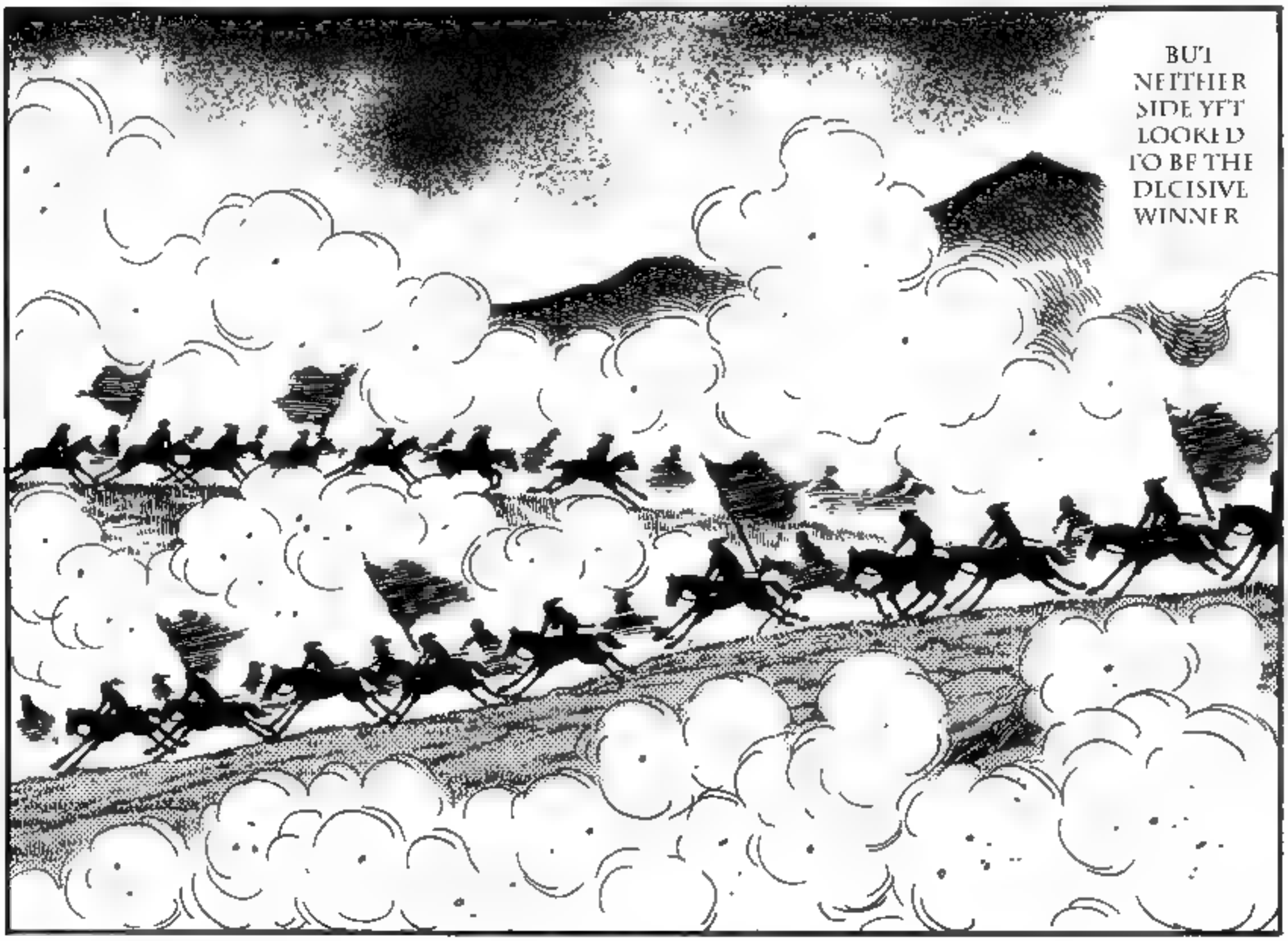
AND WAS FORCED TO SEND HIS PERSONAL BODYGUARD COMPANIES LED BY BO'ORCHU, KASAR, AND BELGUTEI


HE NOW ONLY HAD JELME'S UNITS TO PROTECT HIM.

STILL, THE BATTLE CONTINUED WITHOUT SHOWING ANY SIGN OF STOPPING AMIDST THE DUST TRAILS FROM CHARGING HORSES, TEMUCHIN COULD NO LONGER TELL WHO WAS FIGHTING WHO AND WHO WAS WINNING OR LOSING

ALL DAY MESSENGERS RODE TO AND FRO, REPORTING ON THE SITUATION ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD


THE BATTLE NOW ENTERED ITS 5TH DAY


BUT NEITHER SIDE YET LOOKED TO BE THE DECISIVE WINNER

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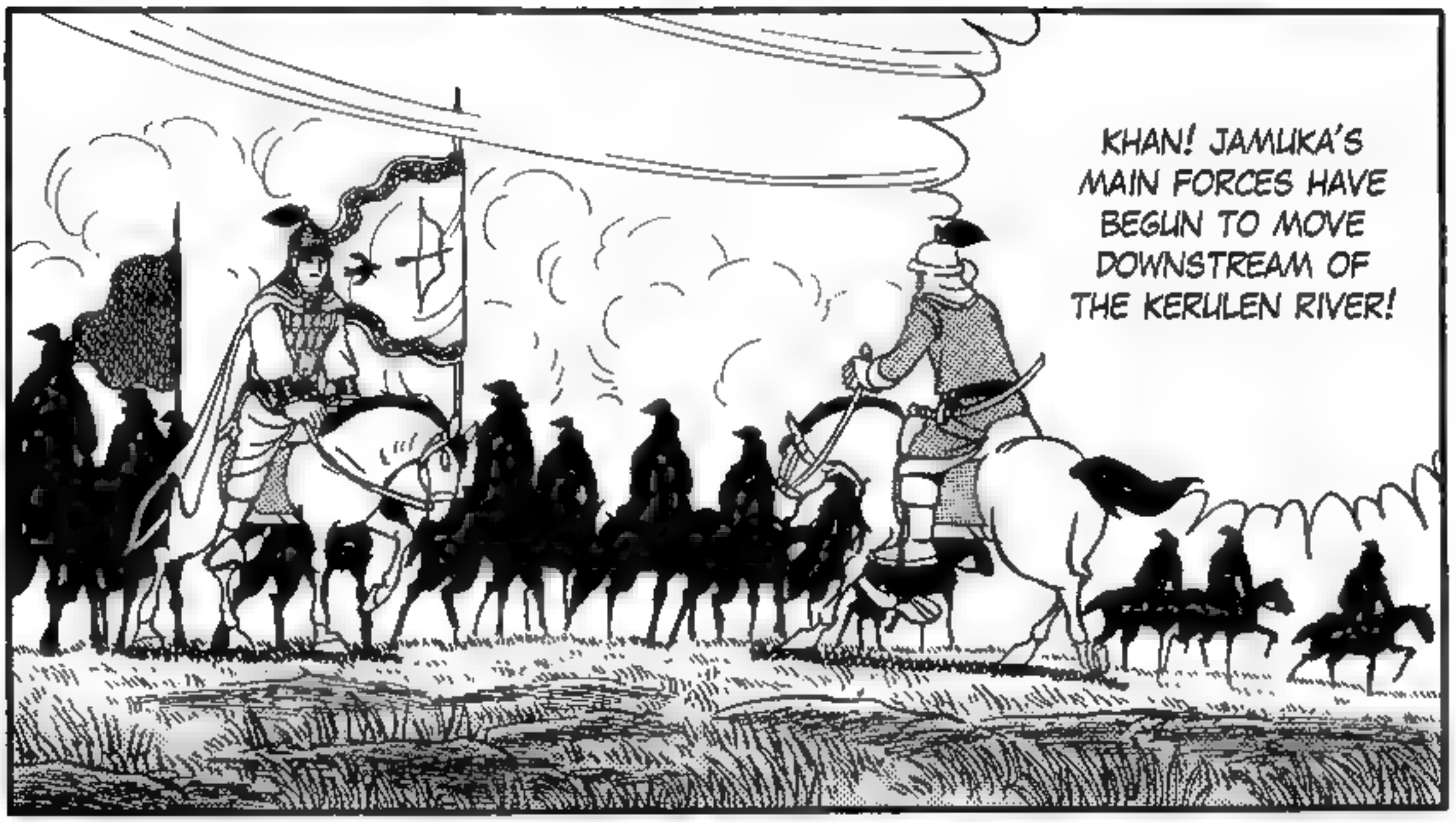
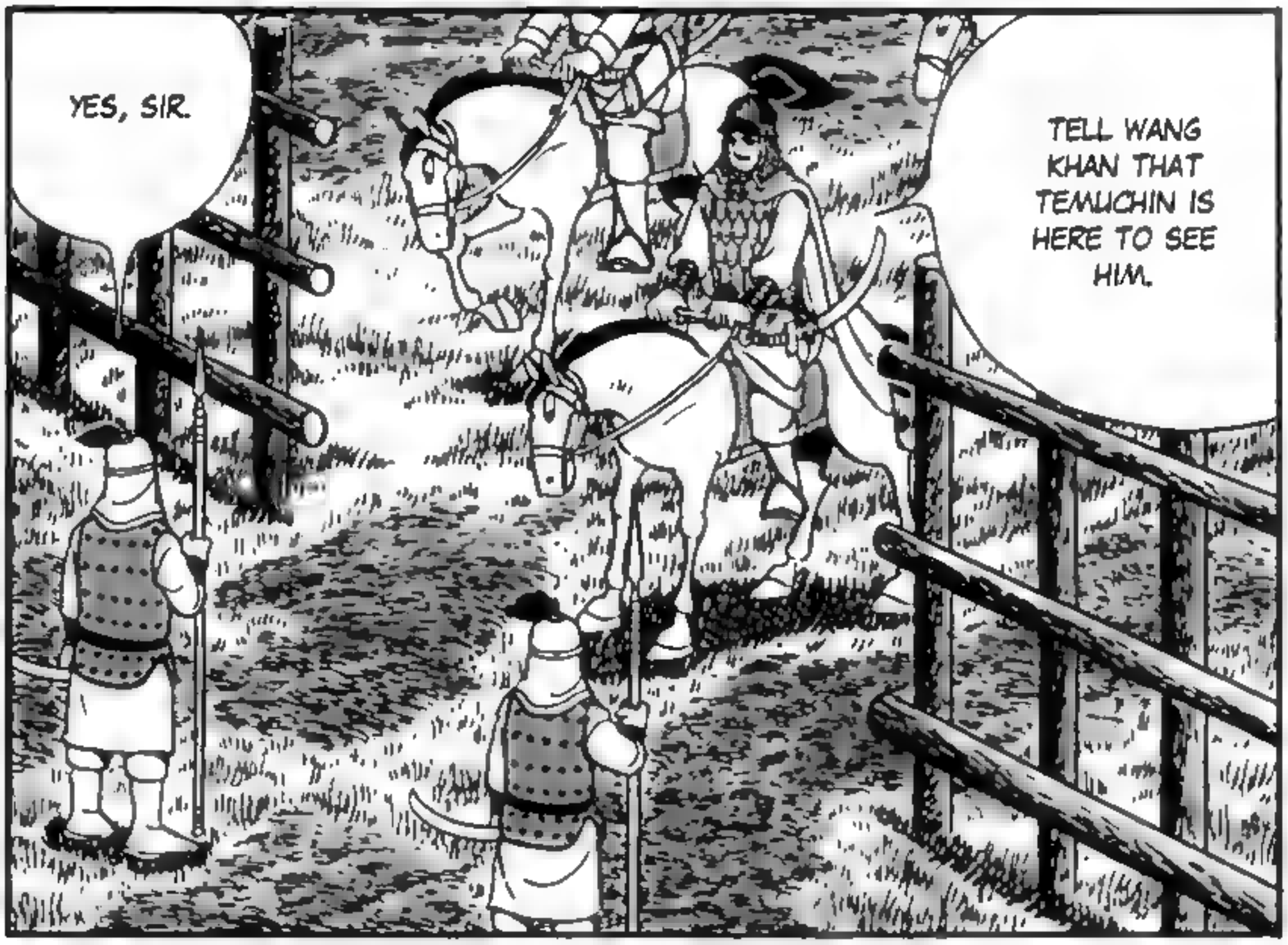

KHAN! JAMUKA'S MAIN FORCES HAVE BEGUN TO MOVE DOWNSTREAM OF THE KERULEN RIVER!

YES.
JELME, I MUST GO SPEAK WITH TOGHRUL.

HMM, SO HE'S PREPARING TO COMMIT HIS MAIN FORCES TO FORCE AN OUTCOME, IS HE...


YES, SIR.
TELL WANG KHAN THAT TEMUCHIN IS HERE TO SEE HIM.

MY FORCES ARE HOLDING OUT FINE BUT MY SCOUT HAS REPORTED THAT JAMLIKA HAS BEGUN TO MOVE HIS MAIN FORCES.

HOW'S THE BATTLE ON YOUR FRONT COMING ALONG?

MOST LIKELY.

I BELIEVE HE IS TRYING TO FORCE A DECISIVE OUTCOME.

ALLOW ME TO INTERCEPT HIS FORCES FROM REACHING YOU WHILE YOU MAINTAIN THE FIGHT HERE.

YOU FOOL! DO YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE JAMUKA!?

OH, SO YOU'RE WORRIED I'M BECOMING A DECREPIT OLD MAN?

NO, NOTHING OF THE SORT. I SIMPLY THOUGHT YOUR BODY MAY BE TAKING A TOLL FROM THE CONSTANT NIGHT-AND-DAY FIGHTS.

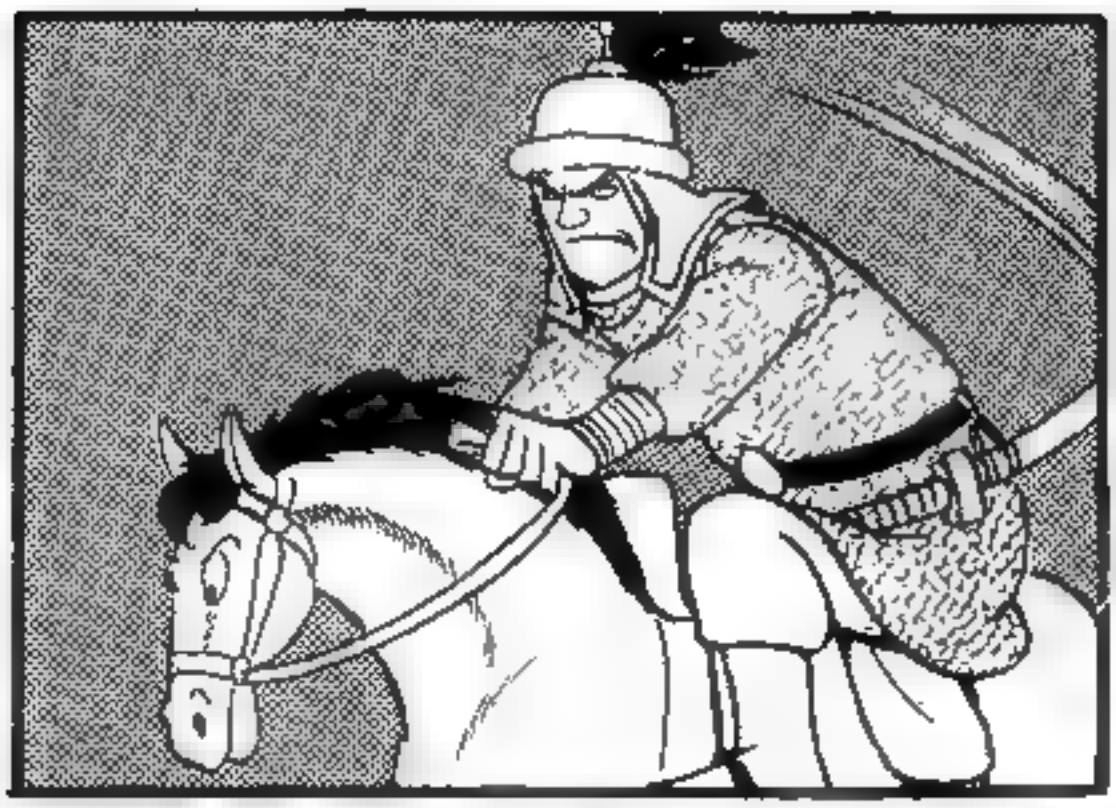
LISTEN TO ME GOOD AND LISTEN TO ME WELL! I ADMIT THAT THE STRENGTH OF MY YOUNGER YEARS HAS NOW LEFT ME, BUT MY WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE STILL LEAVES ME MUCH MORE CAPABLE IN THE WAYS OF WAR THAN YOU!

THIS BATTLE IS ONE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LOSE. I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO TAKE THE CENTER STAGE. I WILL DEAL WITH JAMUKA MYSELF SO YOU REMAIN ON THE SIDES AND DEFEAT THE SUPPORTING TAYICHI'UTS AS WE AGREED UPON BEFORE BATTLE.

VERY WELL...

SEEMS THE OLD WOLF HAS YET TO LOSE HIS FANGS...

ALERT THE OTHER TRIBAL CHIEFS THAT WE WILL STORM THE TAYICHI'UT POSITIONS ALONG THE ONON RIVER!



THE MESSENGERS QUICKLY CONVEYED TEMUCHIN'S ORDERS TO THE OTHER MONGOL TRIBES IN THE DEAD OF THE NIGHT.

WHEN THE SUN ROSE.
TEMUCHIN'S TROOPS WERE ALREADY ADVANCING UP THE ONON RIVER

THE TAYICHI'UT WARRIORS HAD CONSTRUCTED A SERIES OF FORTIFIED ENCAMPMENTS ALONG THE ONON RIVER.

YES?

KASAR! BELGUTEI! KACHUN! TEMUGE!

WE WILL NEVER FORGET THE HUMILIATION THEY FORCED US TO ENDURE.

MY BROTHERS, I PRESUME EACH OF YOU STILL REMEMBERS TARKUTAI'S HEINOUS BETRAYAL AFTER OUR FATHER'S PASSING. HOW HE DROVE OUR FAMILY INTO POVERTY, AND WE HAD TO SCRAPE OFF OUR DAY'S MEAL FROM FIELD MICE WITH SCANT FLESH.

STRIKING DOWN THE TAYICHI'UTS IS TO NOT ONLY FULFIL OUR MOTHER'S WISH, BUT HAVE OUR REVENGE AS WELL SO STEEL YOURSELVES FOR BATTLE!

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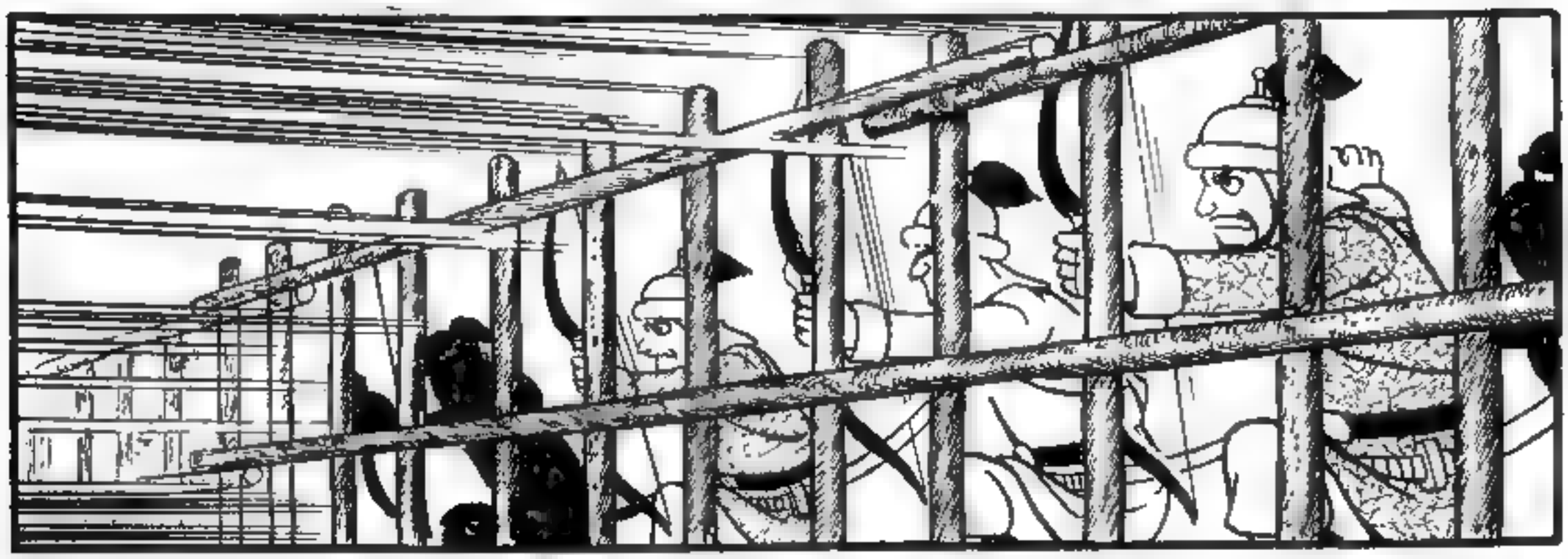
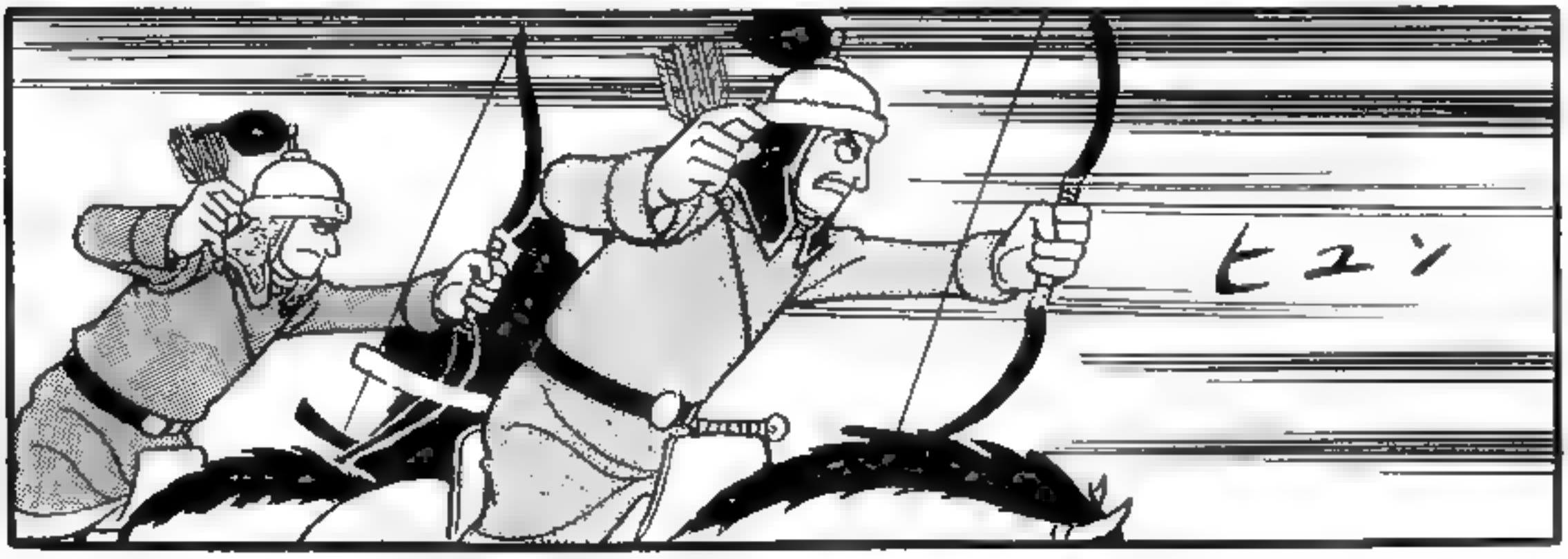
CHARGE!

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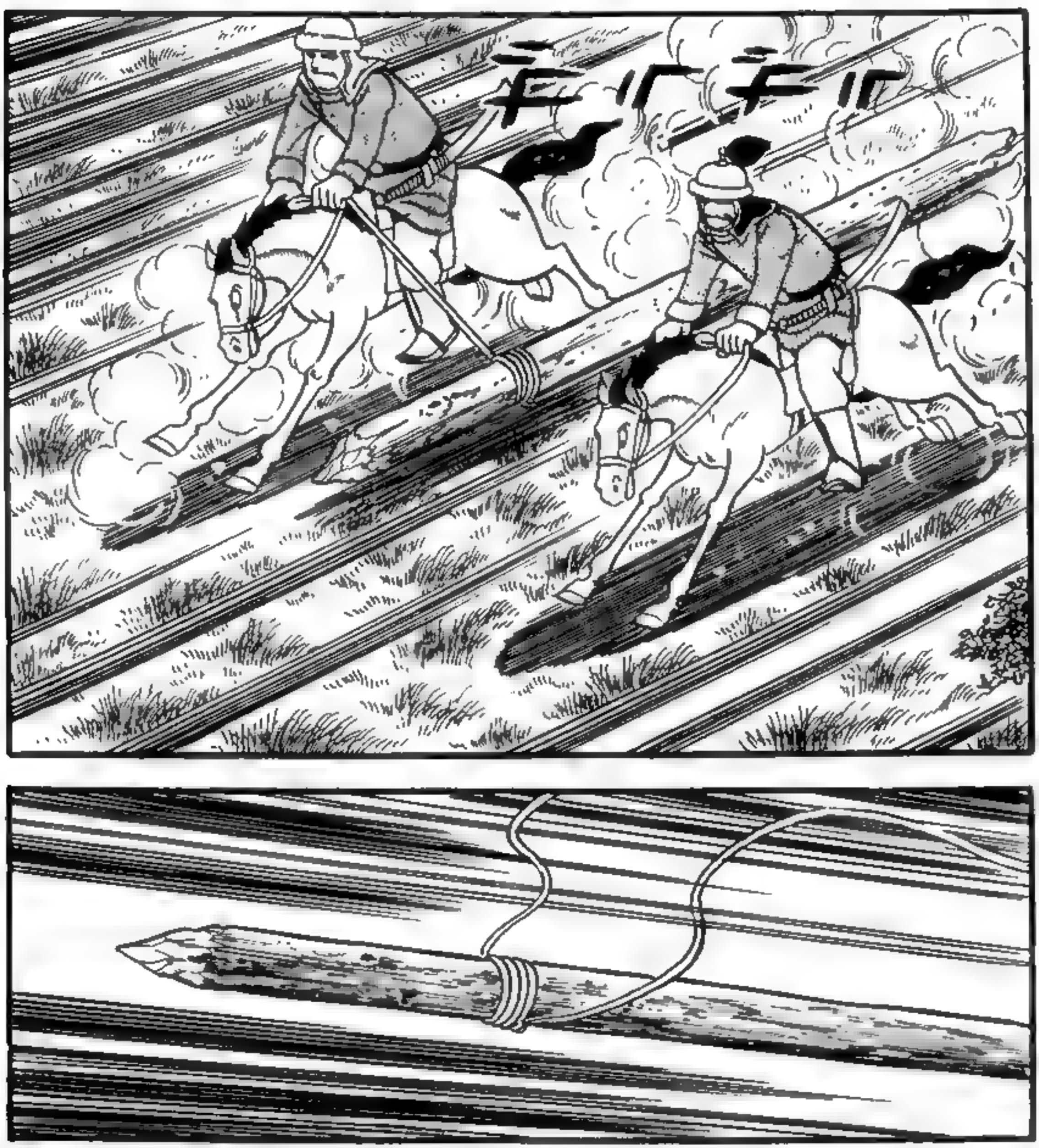
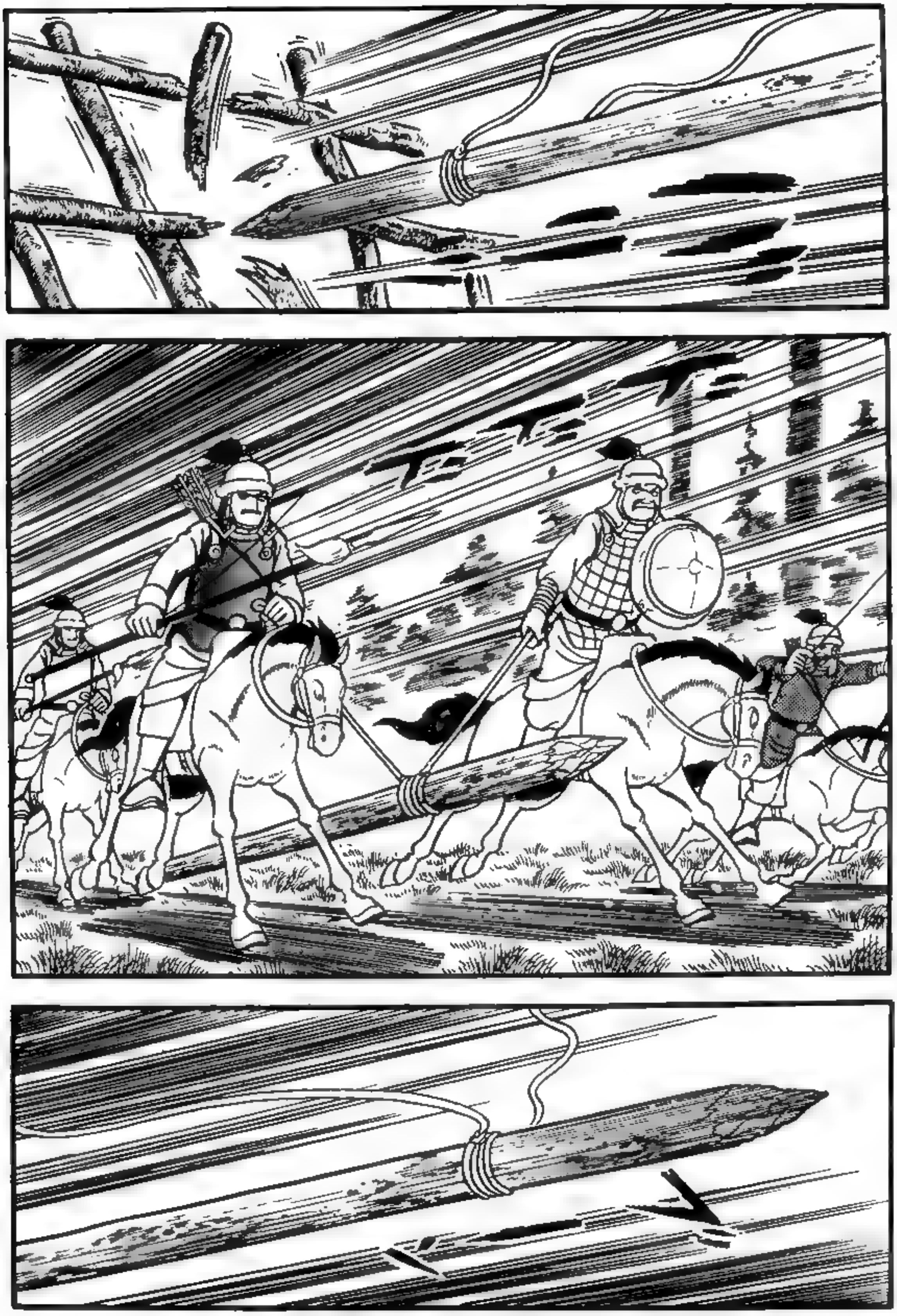
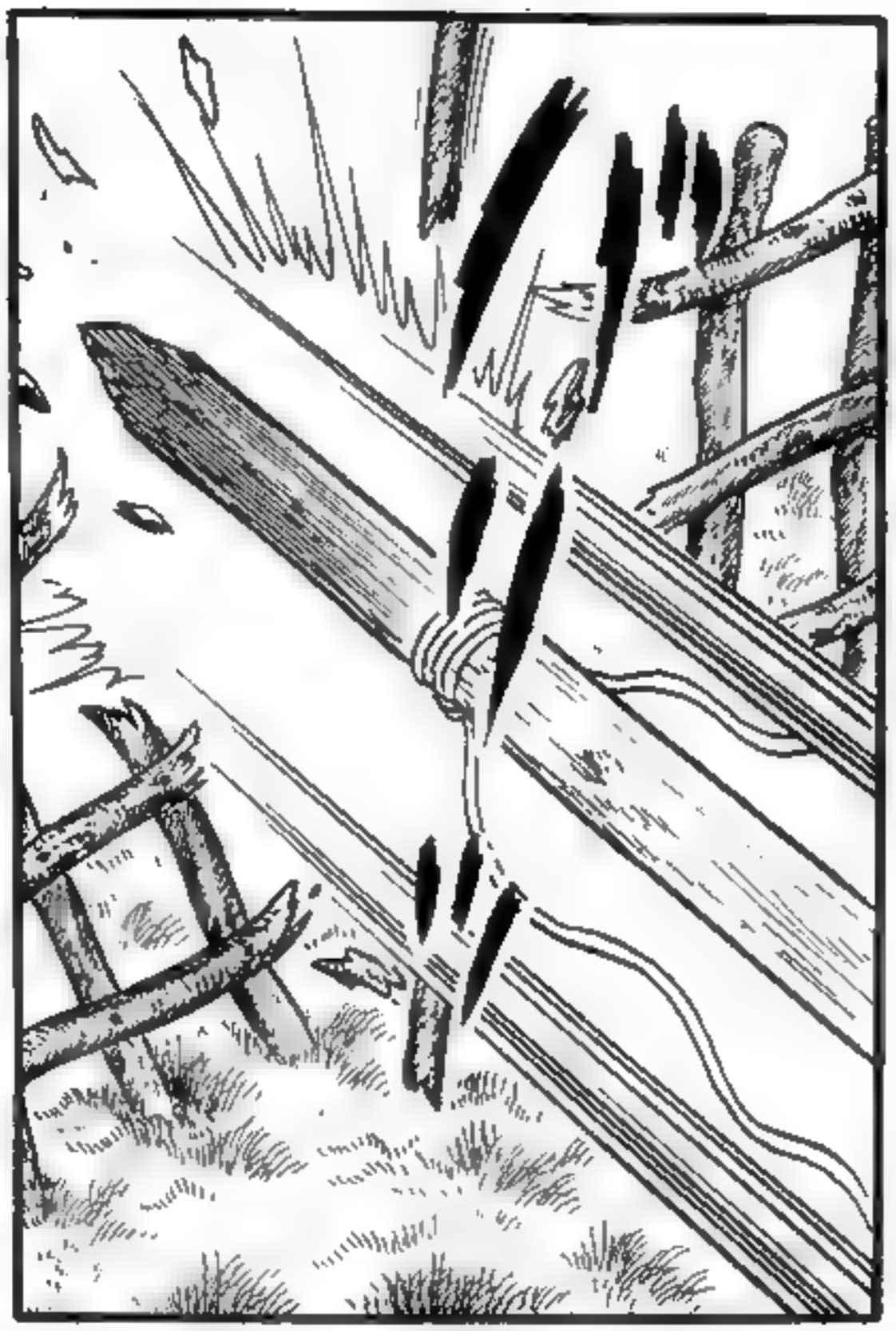
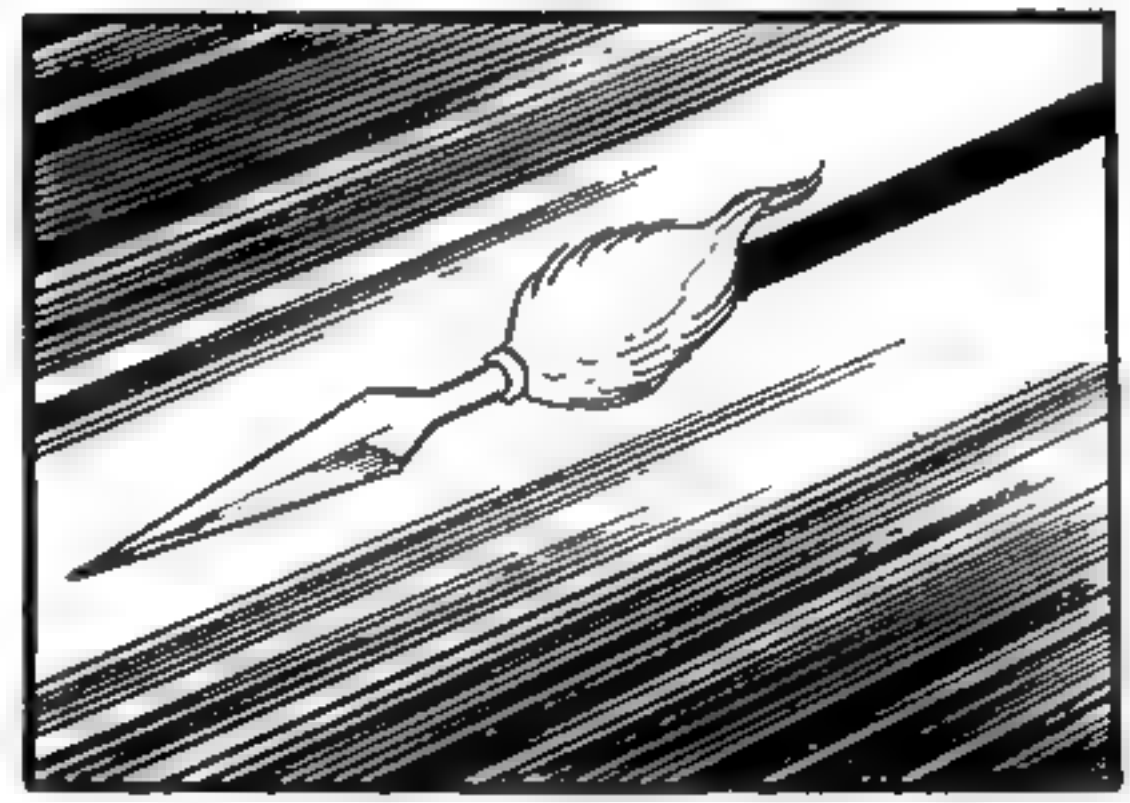
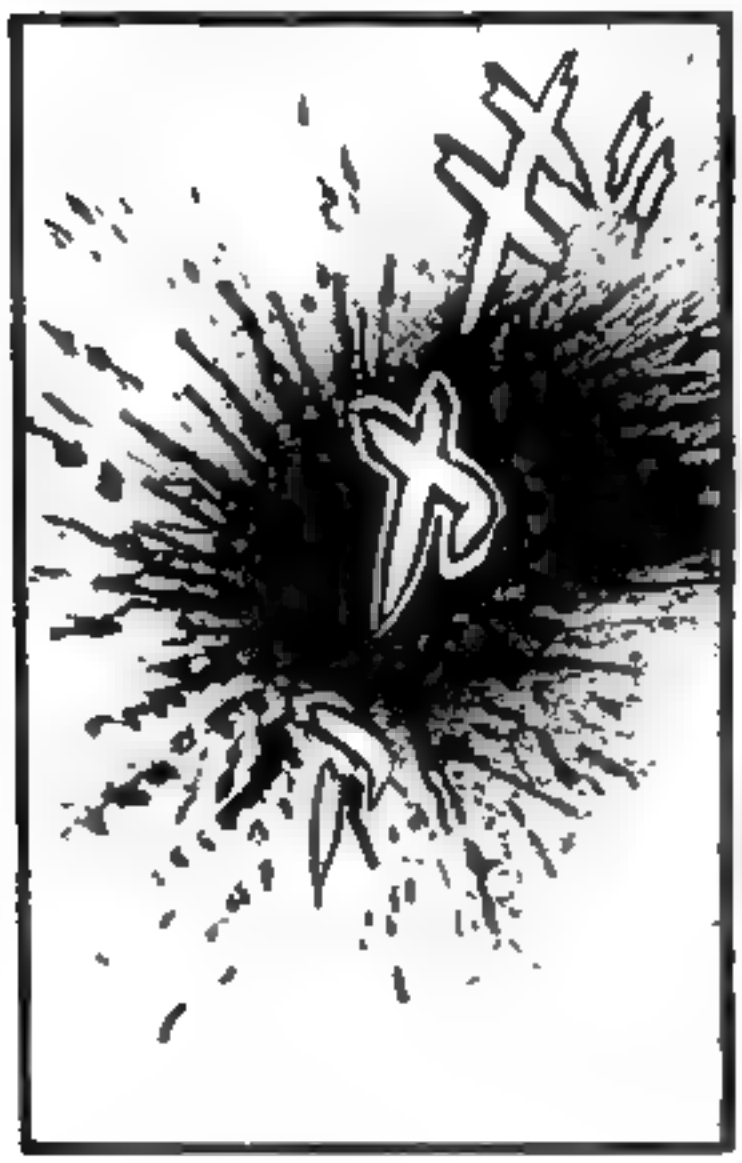
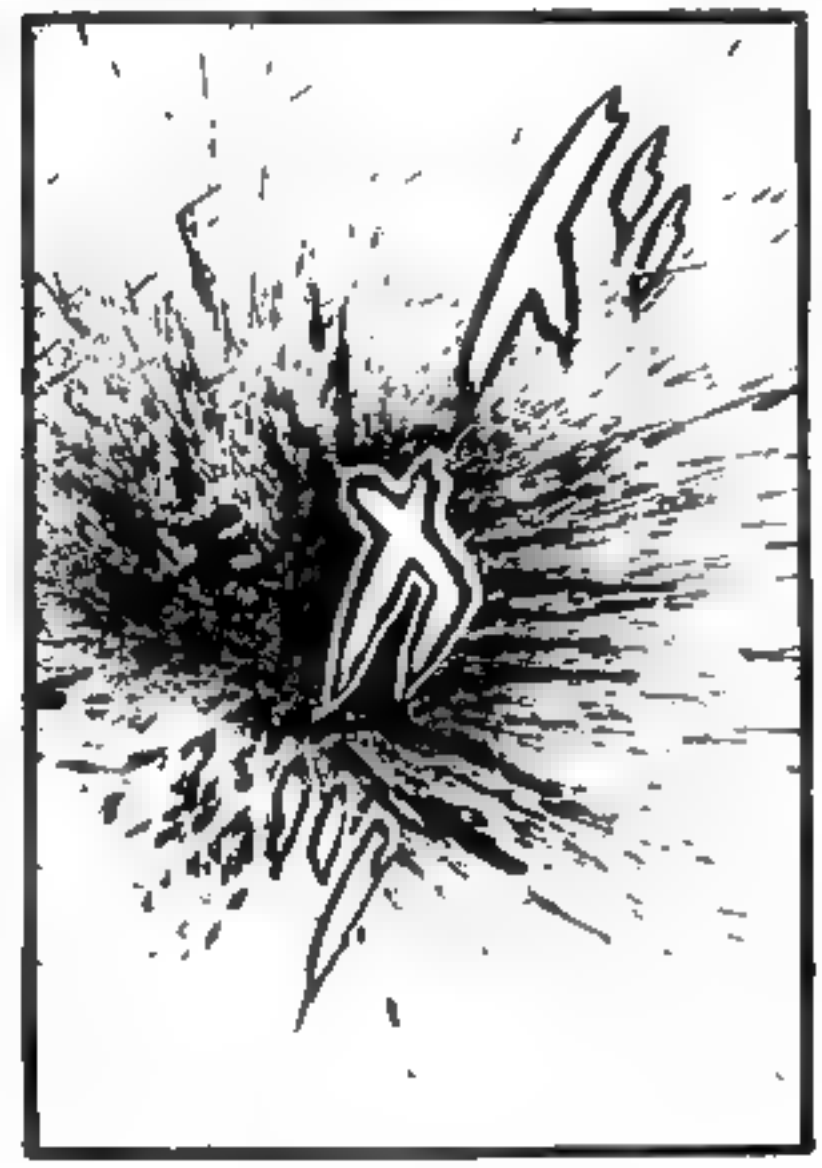


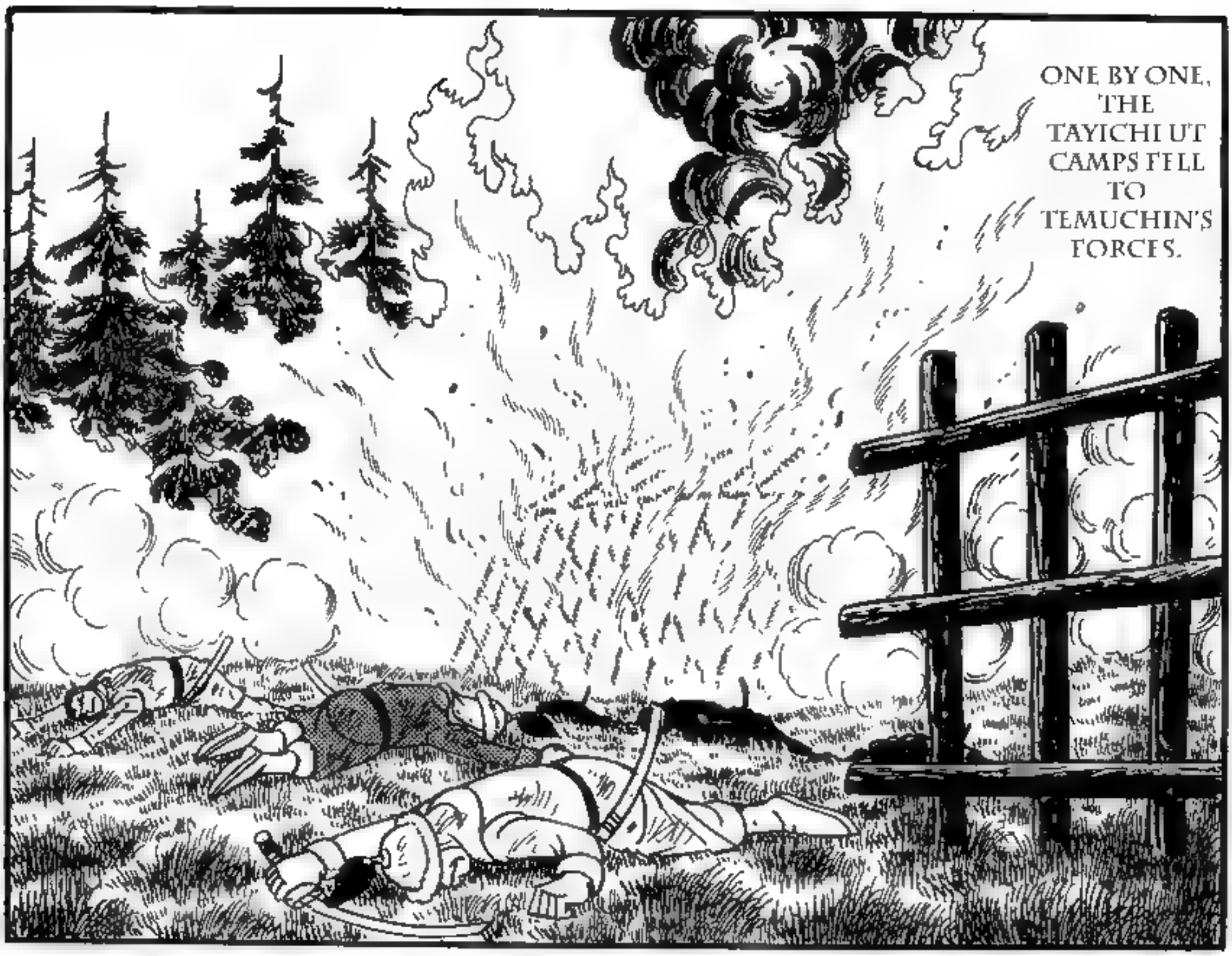








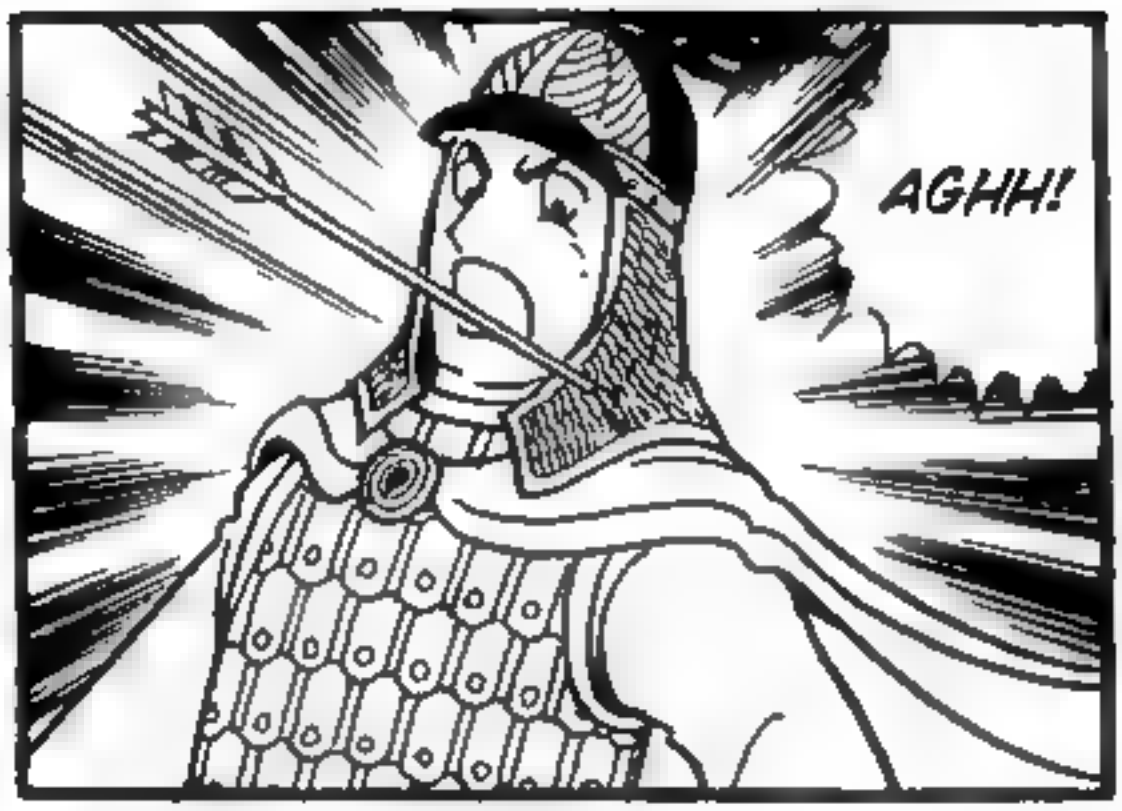


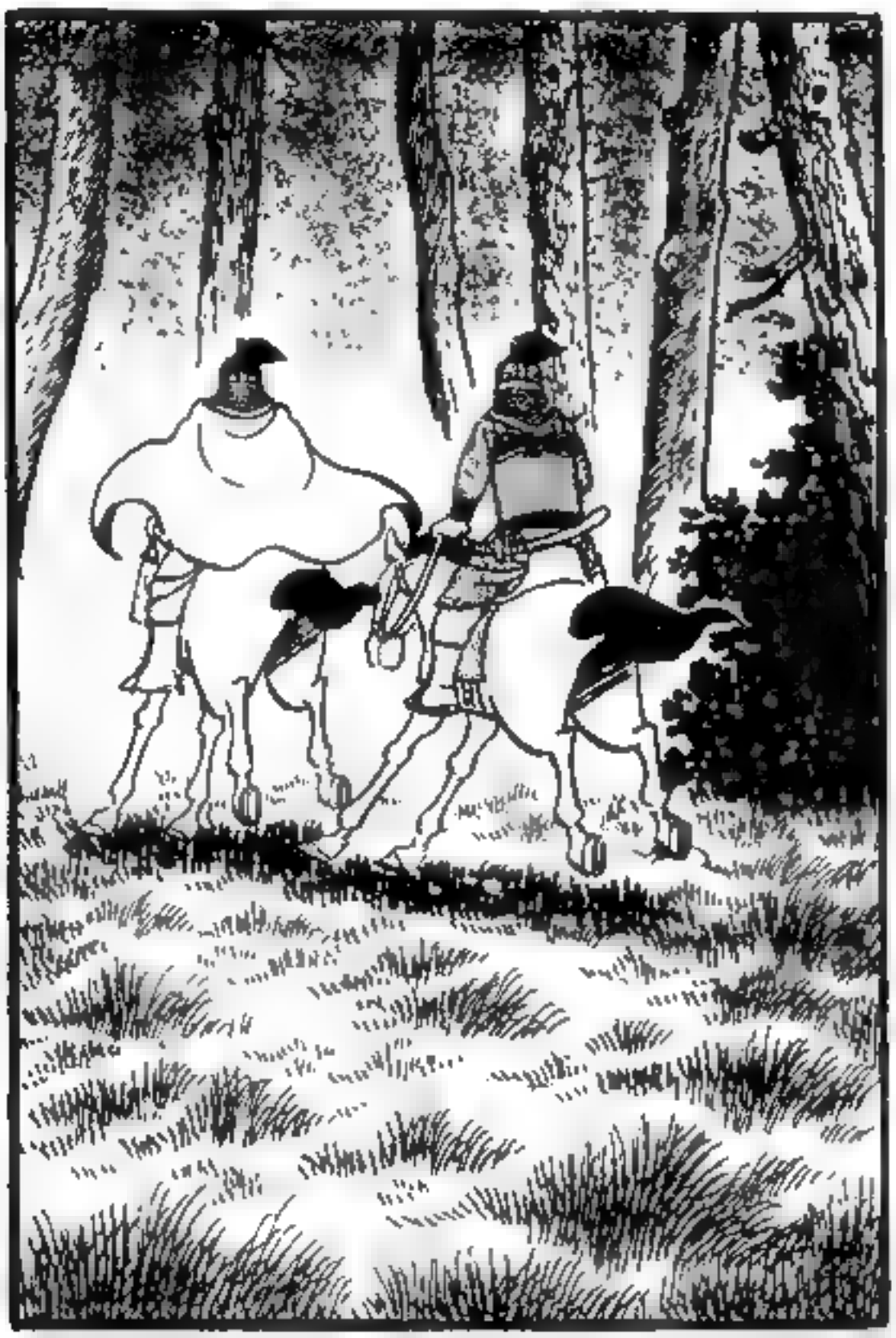

ONE BY ONE, THE TAYICHI UT CAMPS FELL TO TEMUCHIN'S FORCES.

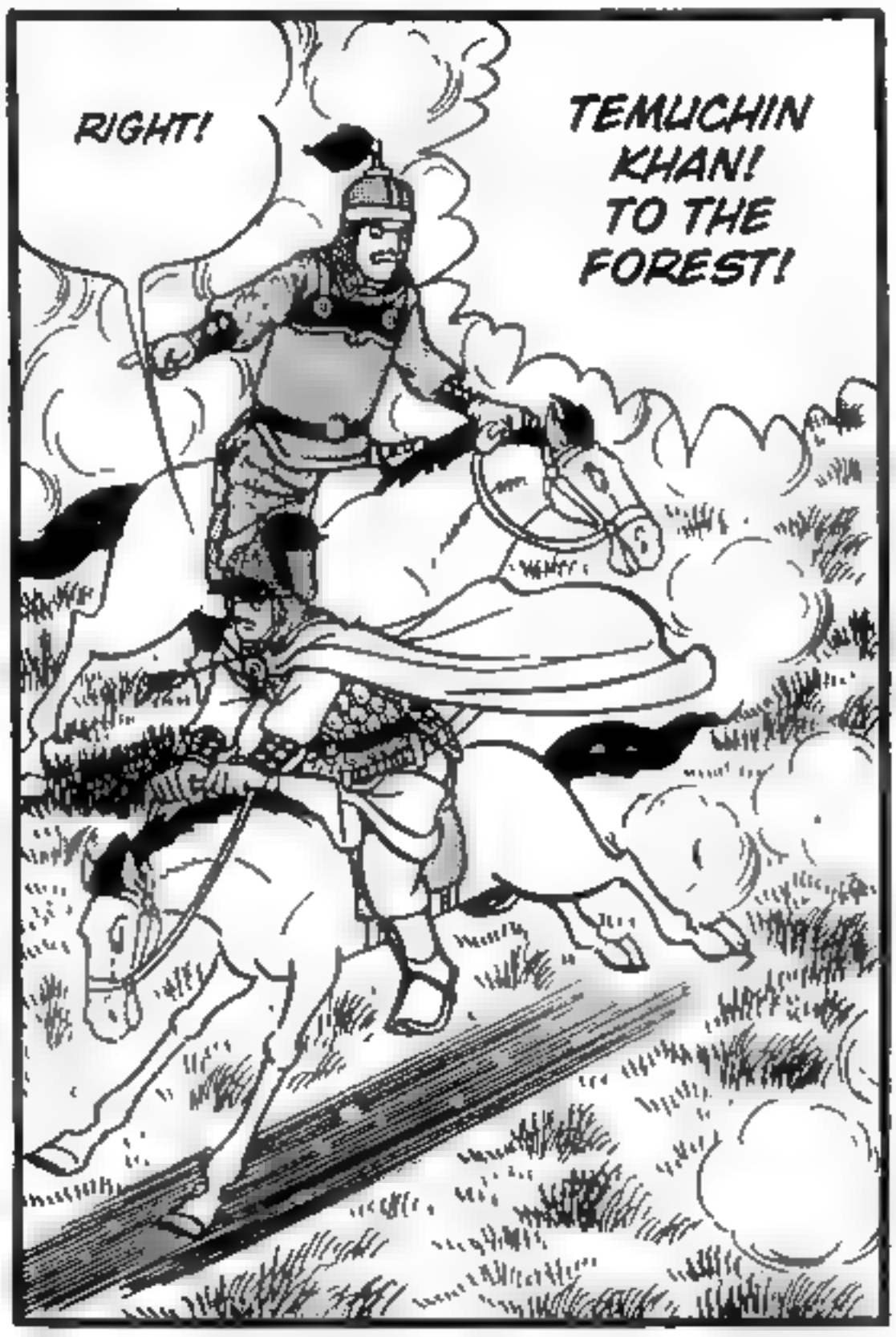
YES, THE MORALE OF OUR MEN IS HIGH ENOUGH TO REACH THE SKIES.

WE'RE MAKING GOOD PROGRESS, JELME.

AH!


AGHH!




RIGHT!
TEMUCHIN KHAN! TO THE FOREST!

HMPH! SO IT WASN'T A FATAL SHOT...

WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE IN THE WOODS. PULL OUT THE ARROW AND ALLOW ME TO LOOK AT YOUR WOUND.

MERELY A SCRATCH.

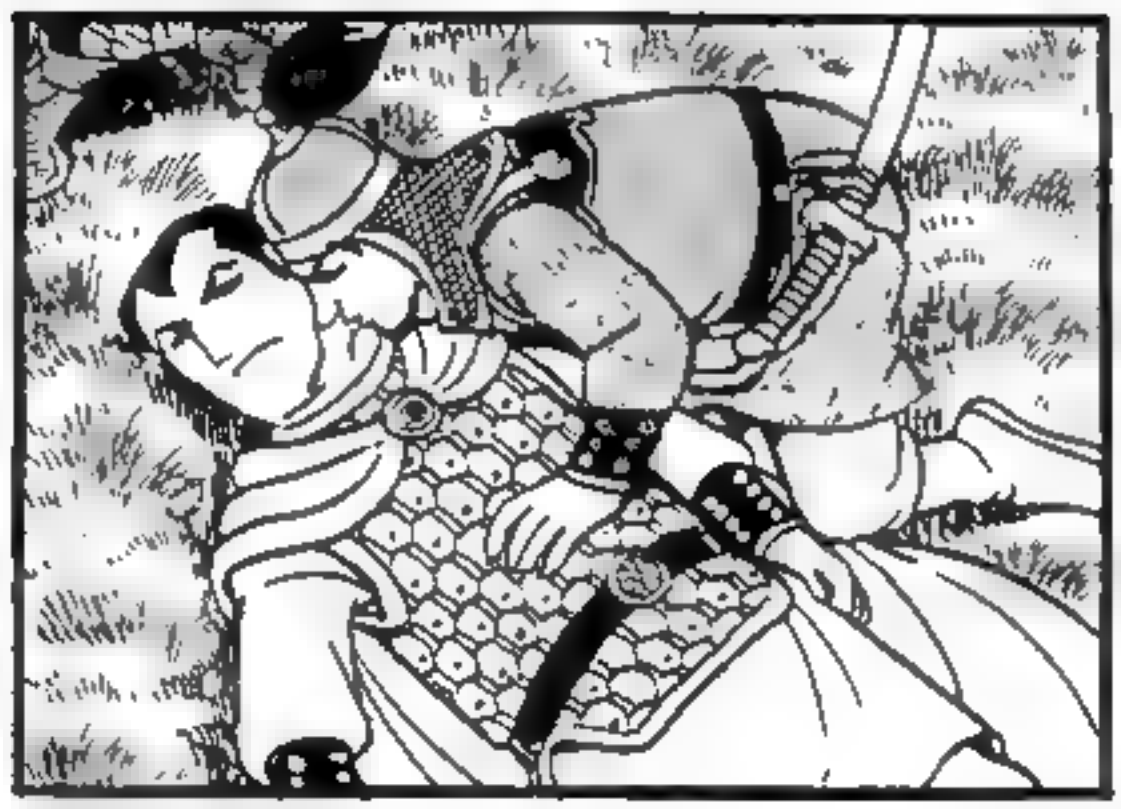
HOW IS YOUR WOUND, KHAN?

THANKS TO THE LEADER HIDE STOPPING MOST OF THE IMPACT, IT DIDN'T PIERCE DEEP INTO MY NECK.

SNIFF
SNIFF

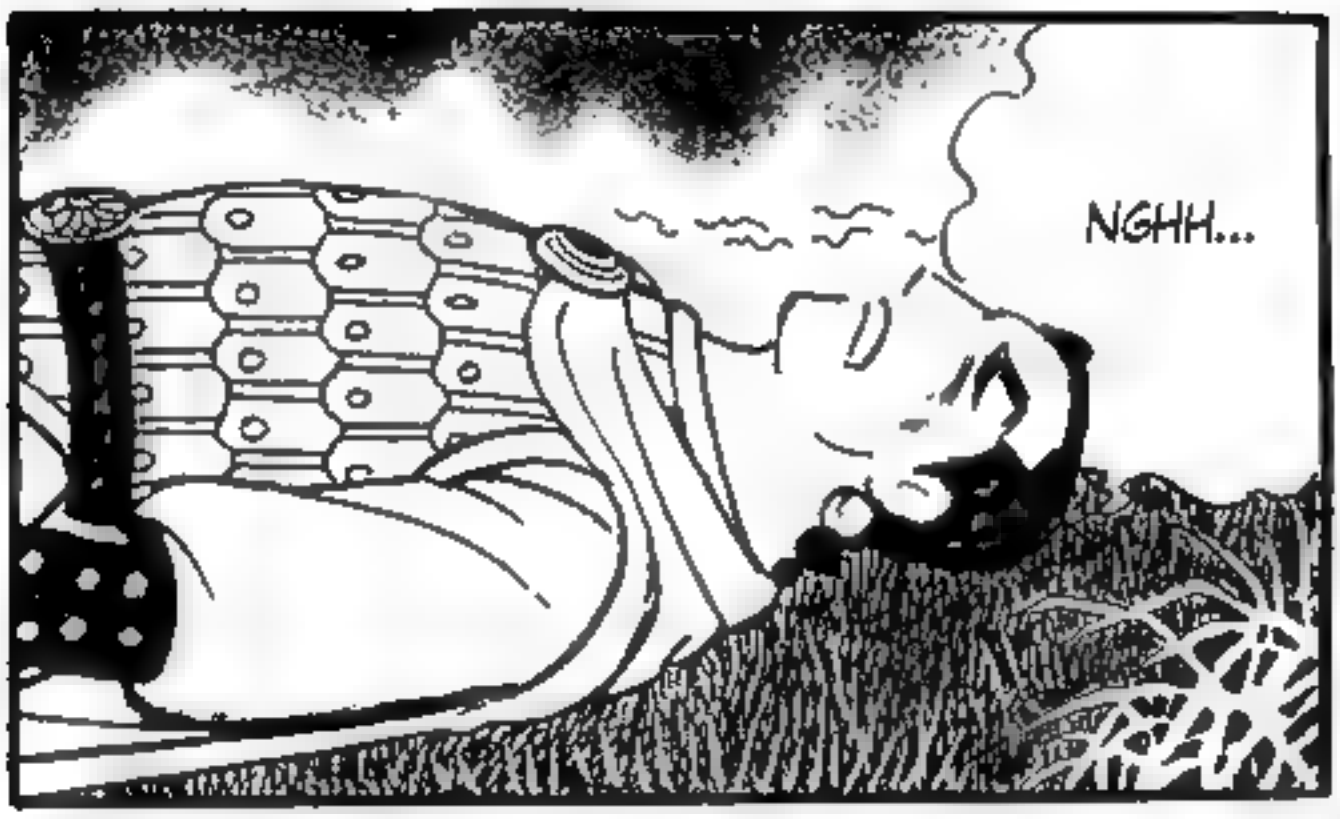
TEMUCHIN KHAN! LIE DOWN AND DO NOT MOVE AT ALL IF POSSIBLE, LEST THE POISON SPREAD!

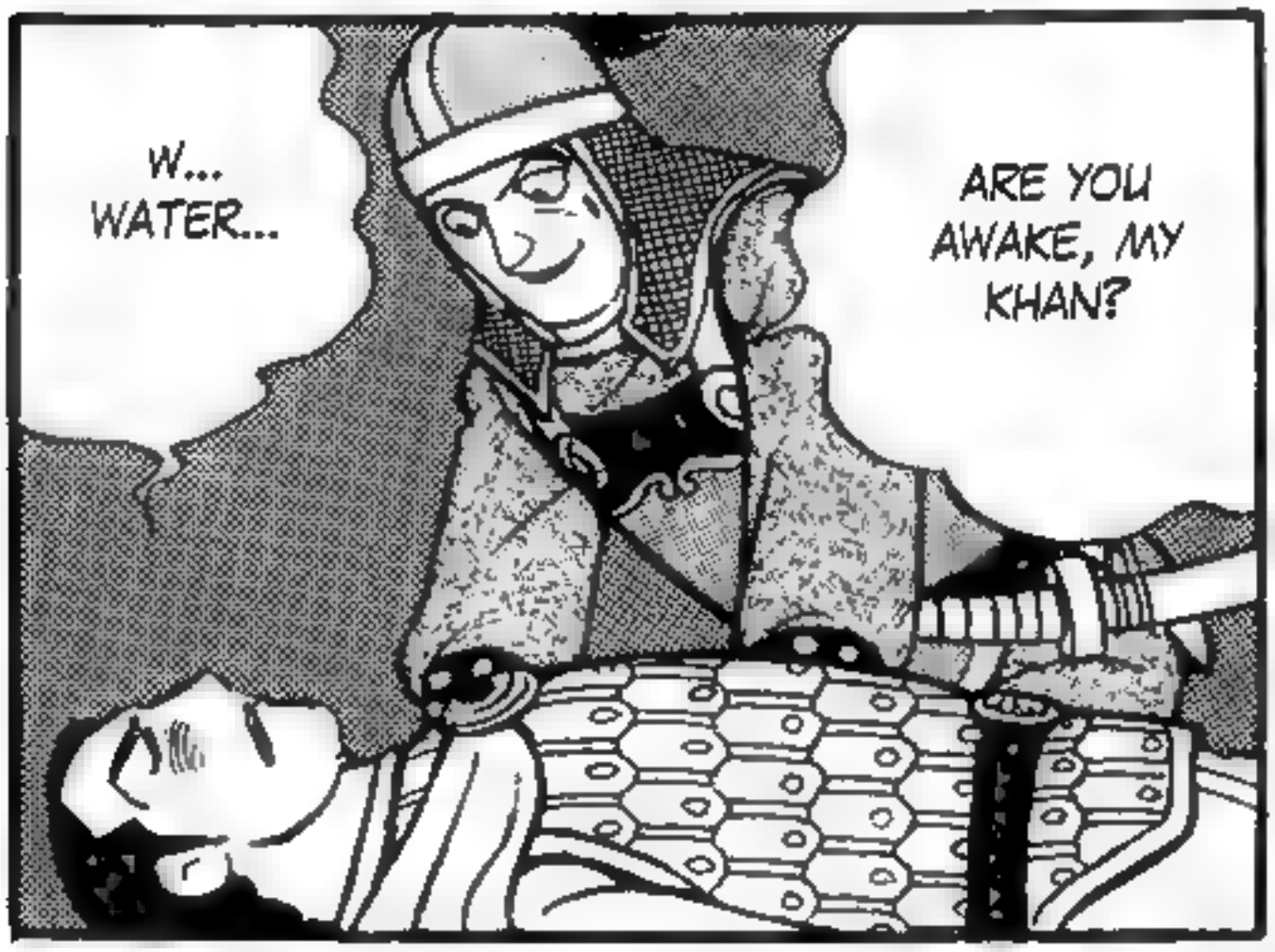
T-THIS IS POISONED!



WHETHER FROM FATIGUE OR POISON, TEMUCHIN SOON FELL ASLEEP AND LOST CONSCIOUSNESS

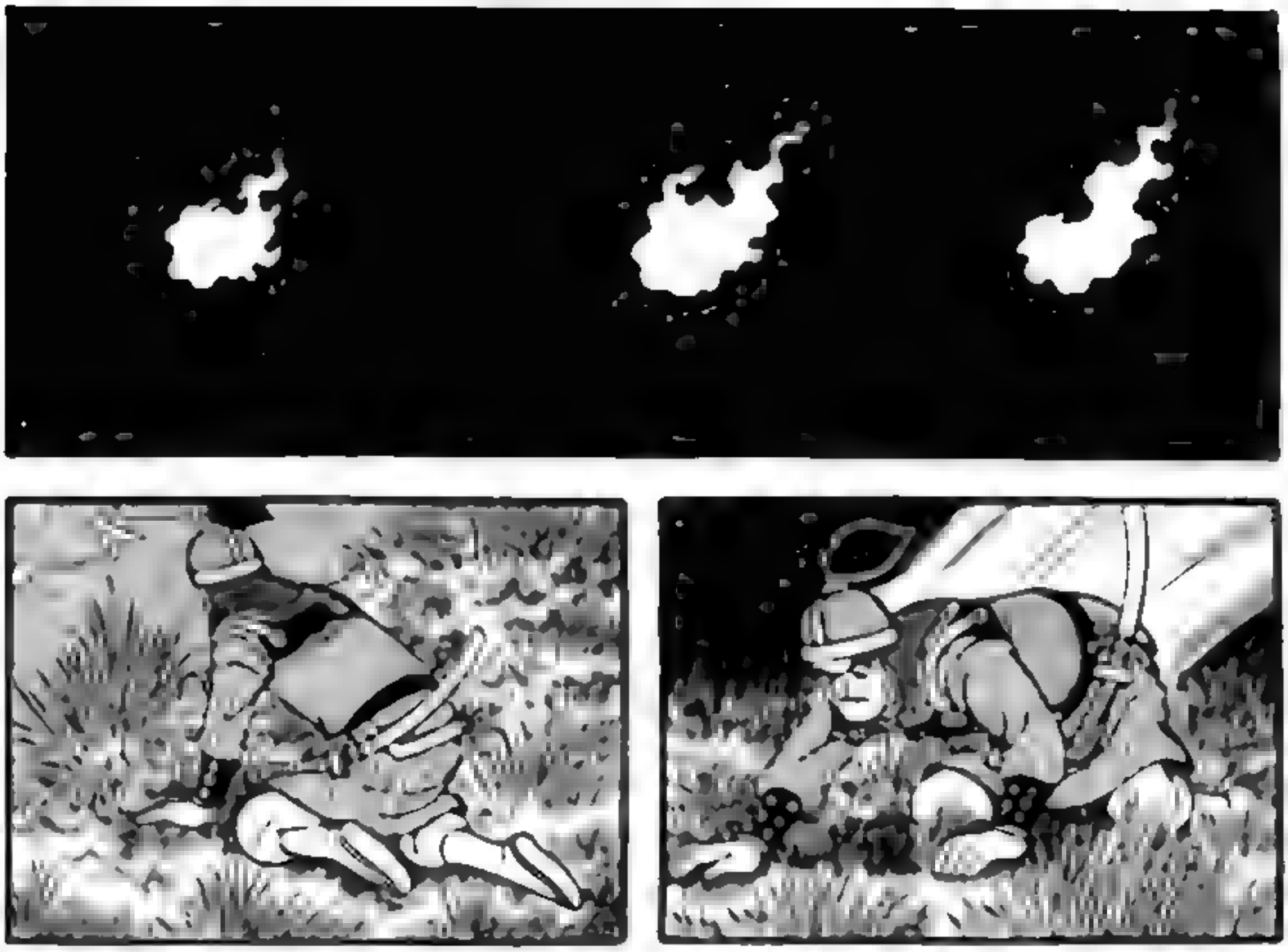
JELME CONTINUED TO SUCK AT TEMUCHIN'S WOUND AND SPIT OUT THE POISONED BLOOD.


NGHH...


W...
WATER...
ARE YOU AWAKE, MY KHAN?

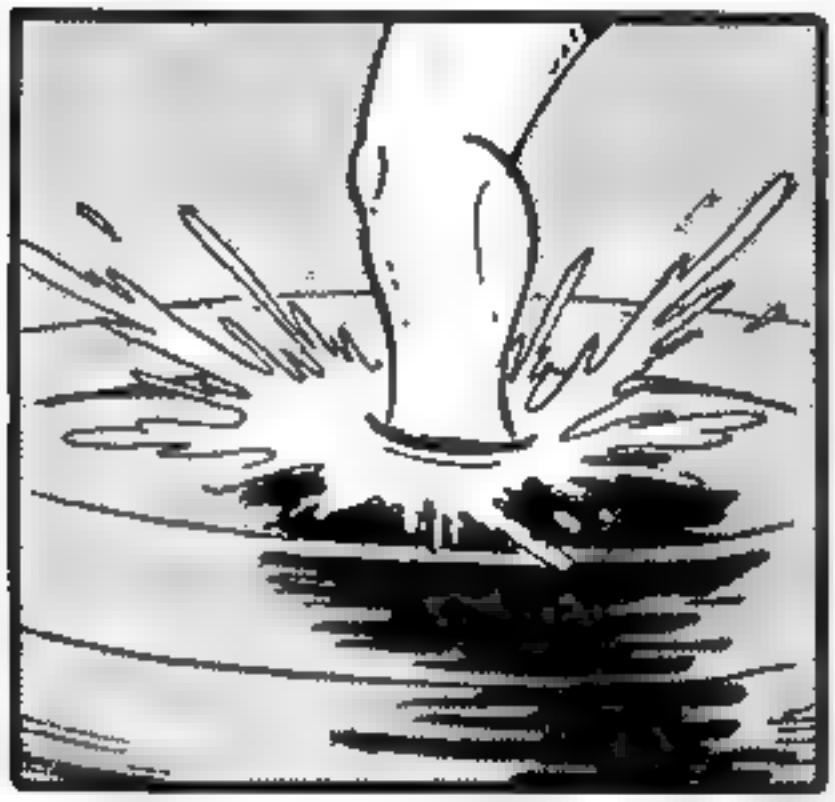
MY THROAT... IT BURNS...

PLEASE WAIT HERE. I WILL BE BACK SHORTLY WITH WATER.



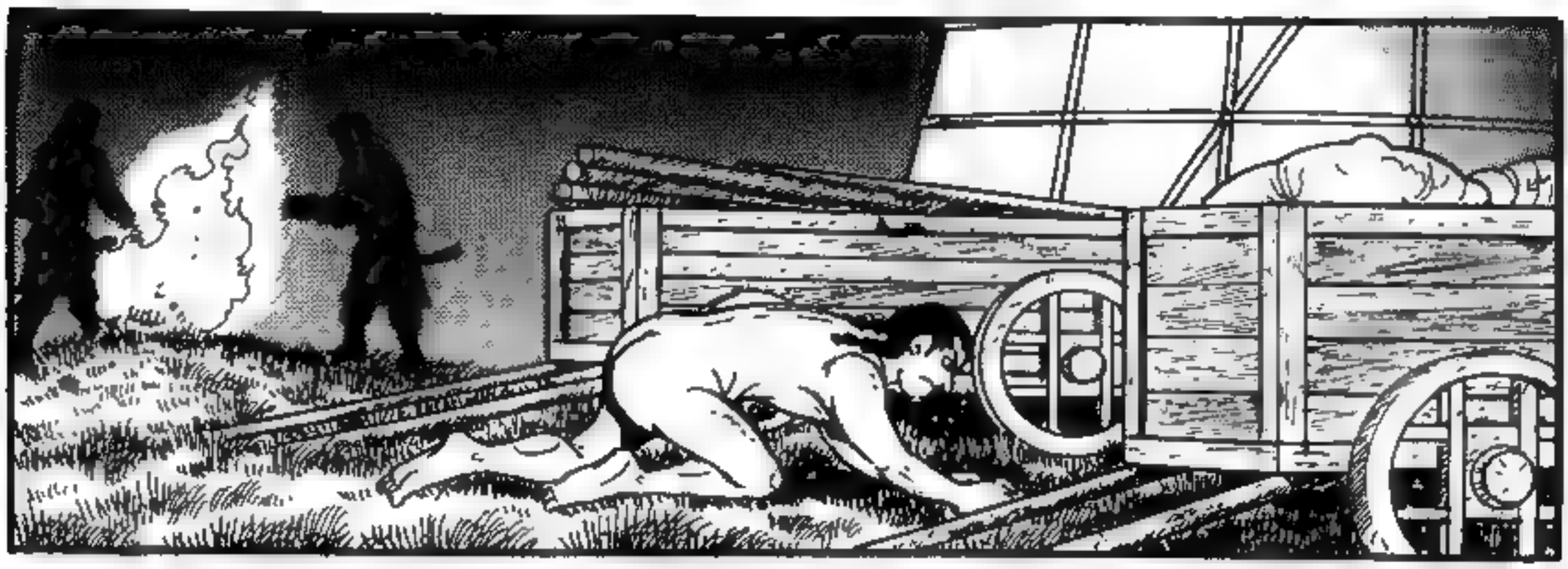
SO BE IT...

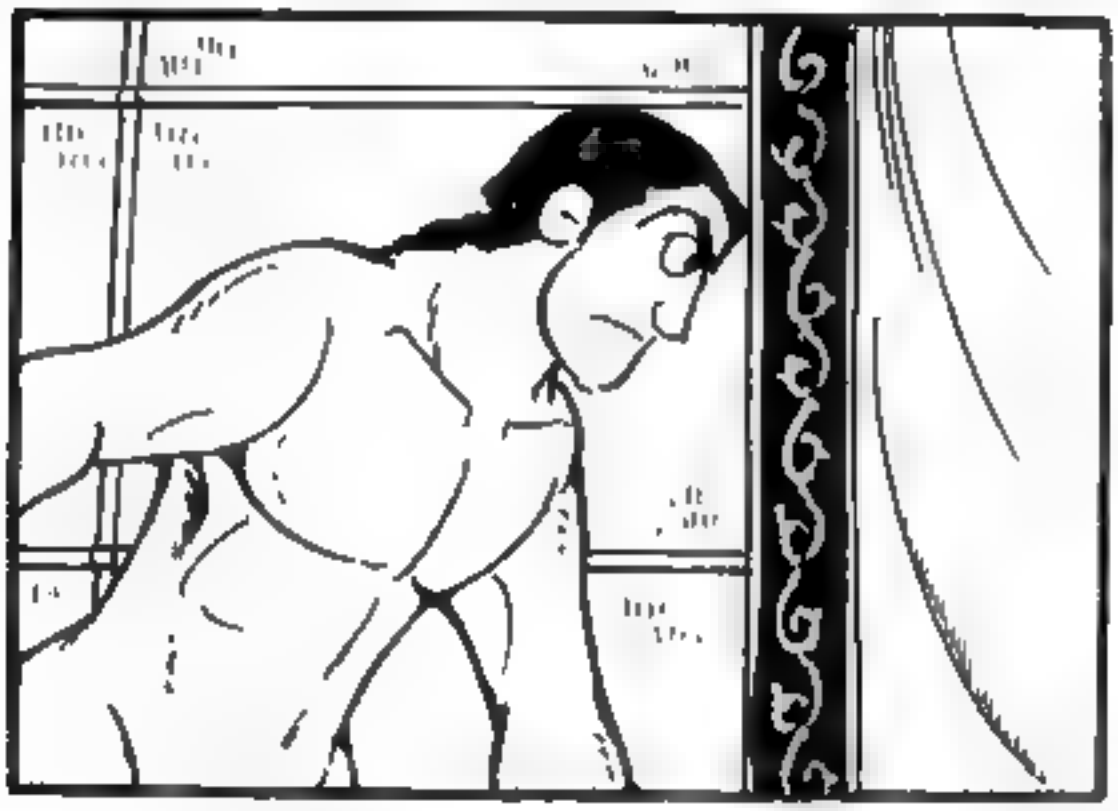
IT'S A TAYICHI'UT CAMP...



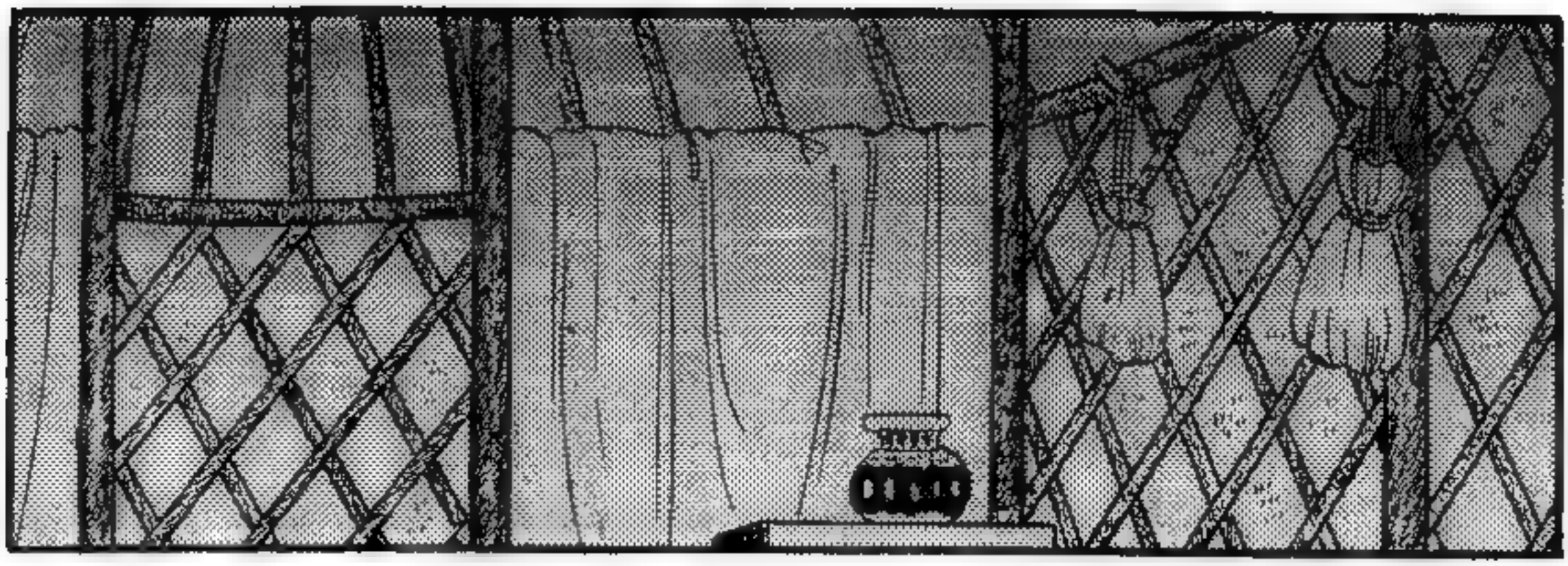
IT'S FREEZING.

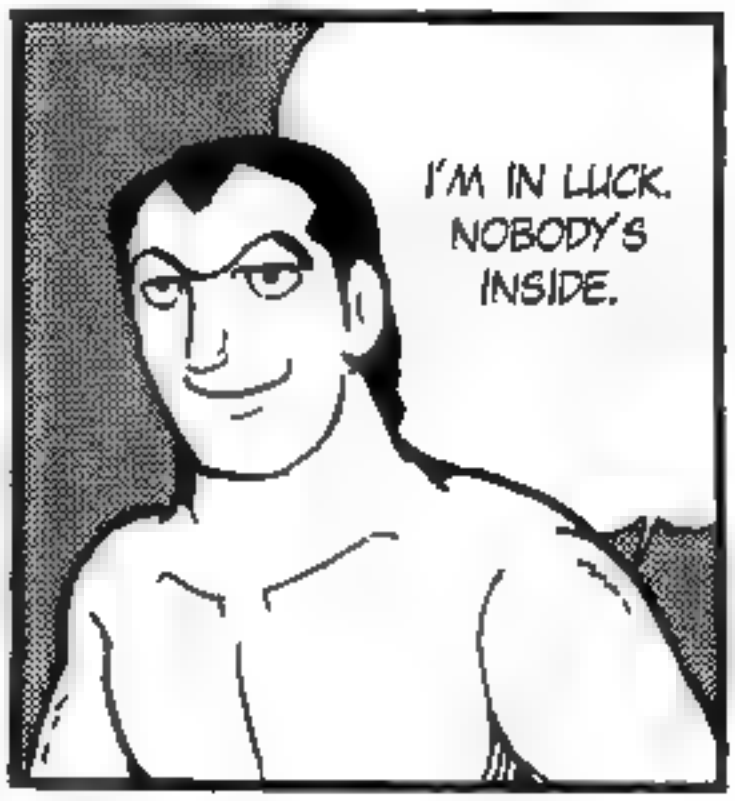
NGHH...

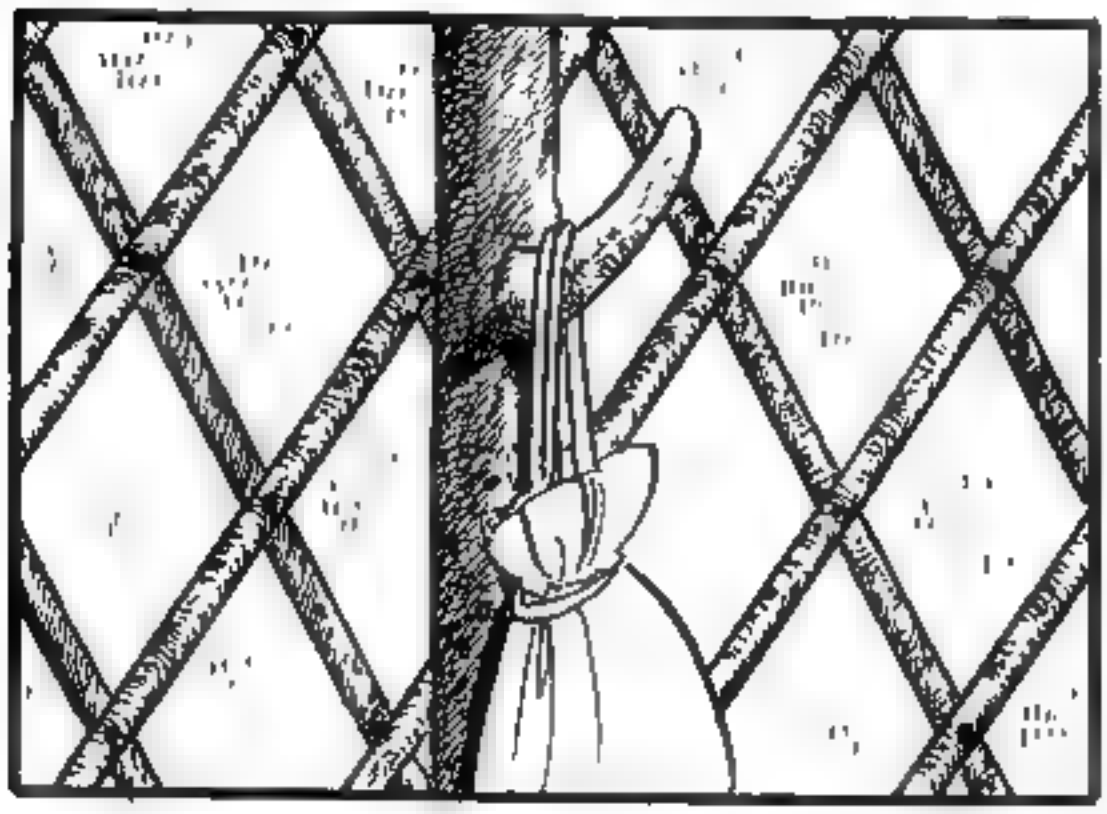




OH?

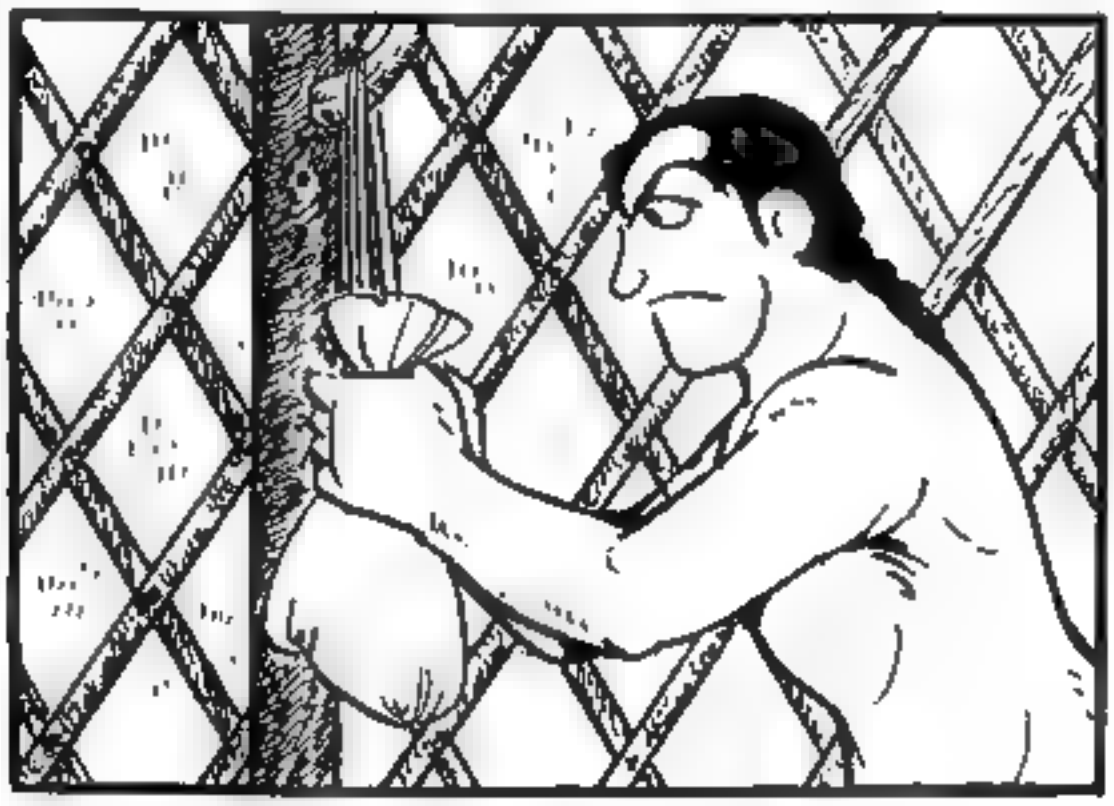


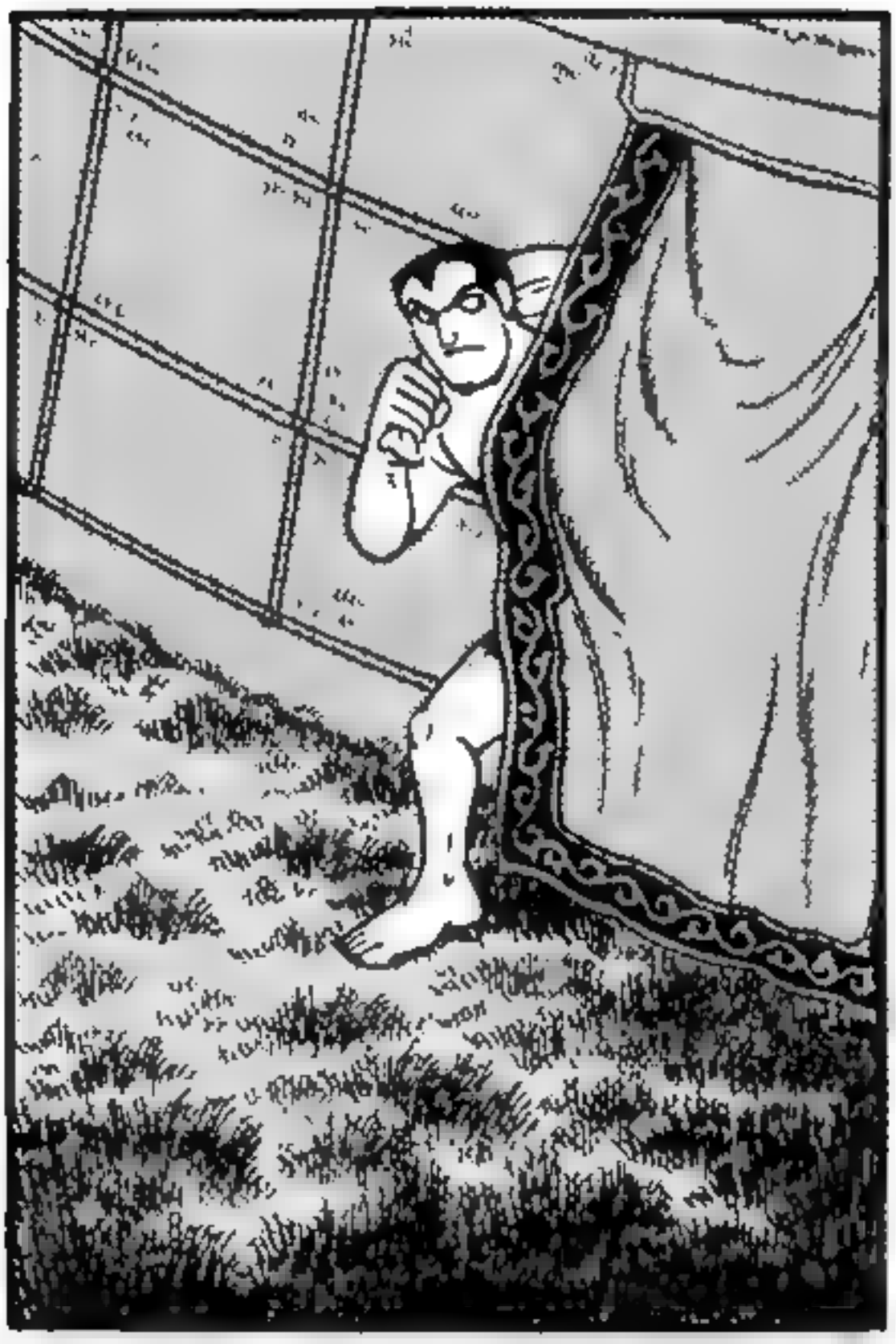

I'M IN LUCK. NOBODY'S INSIDE.



SOMETHING TO DRINK... SOMETHING TO DRINK...

IT'S AIRAG!





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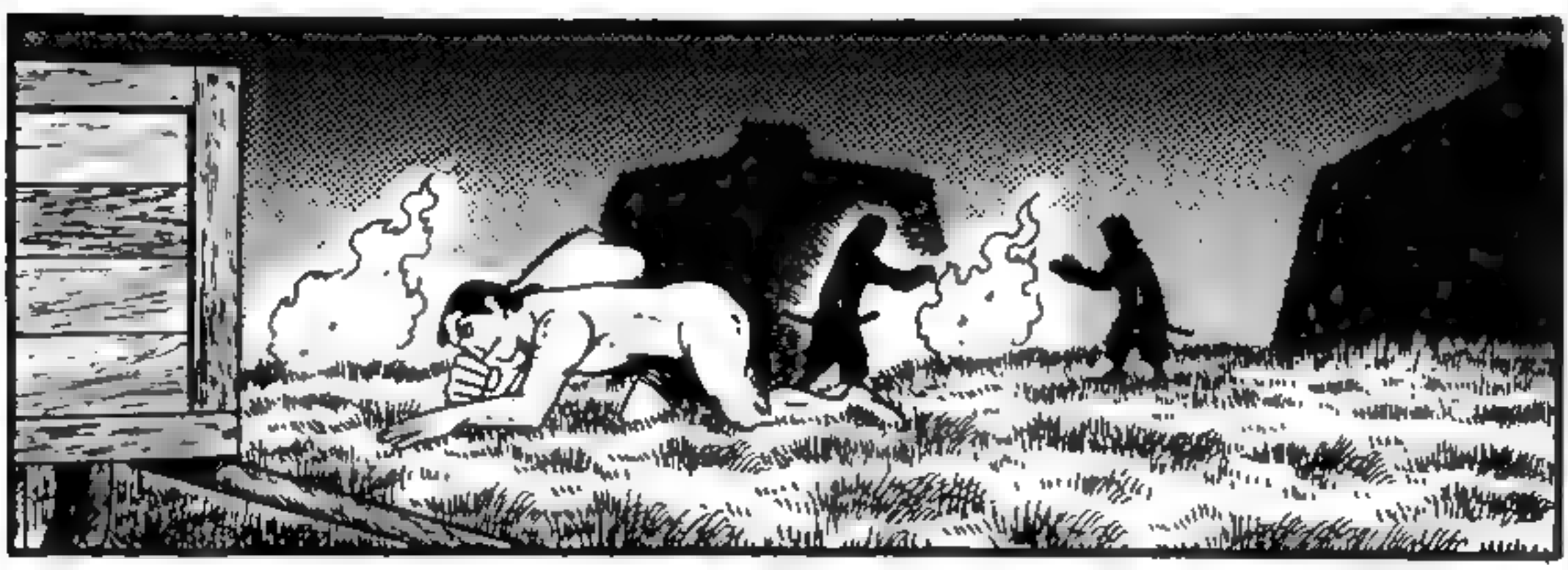
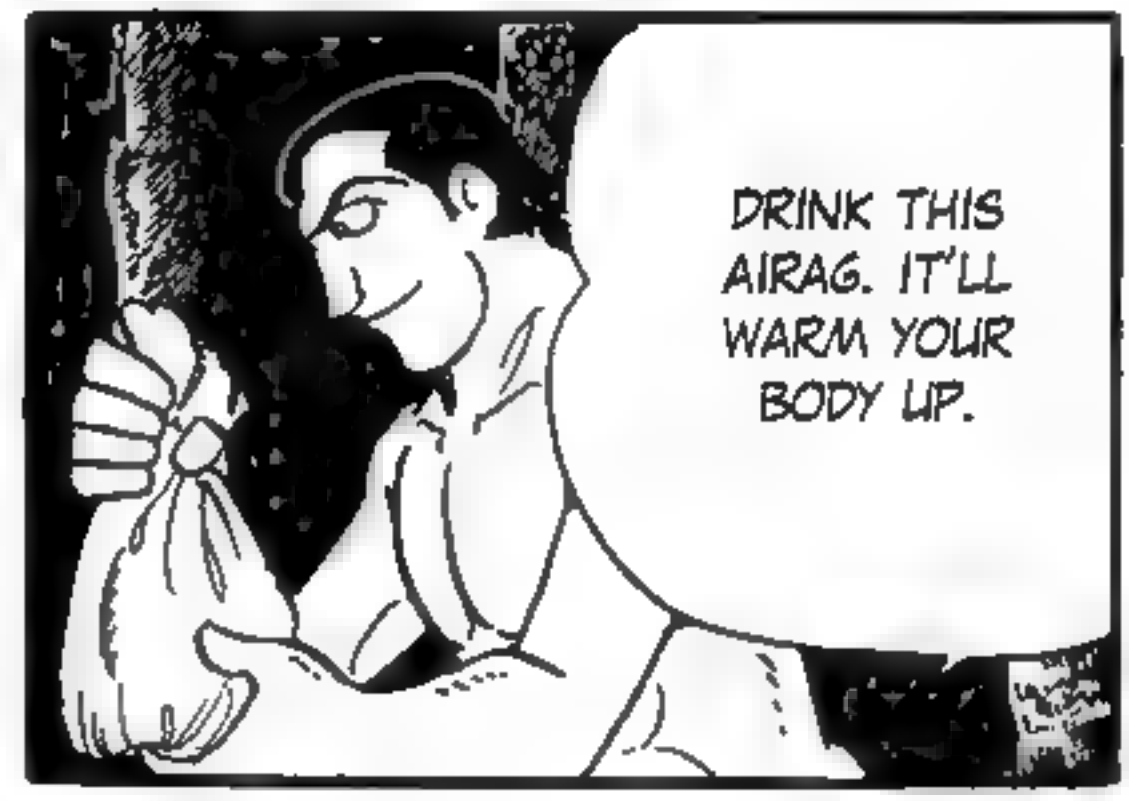
AHH... WARMS MY BODY RIGHT UP!



TEMUCHIN KHAN!


DRINK THIS AIRAG. IT'LL WARM YOUR BODY UP.

IF YOU CAN TELL HOW GOOD IT TASTES, THEN IT SEEMS YOUR MIND HAS CLEARED.

AHH... THAT'S DELICIOUS.

AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

I HAD TO SNEAK INTO THE ENEMY CAMP TO FIND SOMETHING TO DRINK.

HM? WHY ARE YOU NAKED?

THIS WAY, IF CAUGHT IN THE CAMP, I FIGURED IT'D BE EASIER TO CONVINCE THE ENEMIES THAT I WAS ONE OF THEM WHO ESCAPED MONGOL CAPTIVITY AFTER BEING STRIPPED BARE.

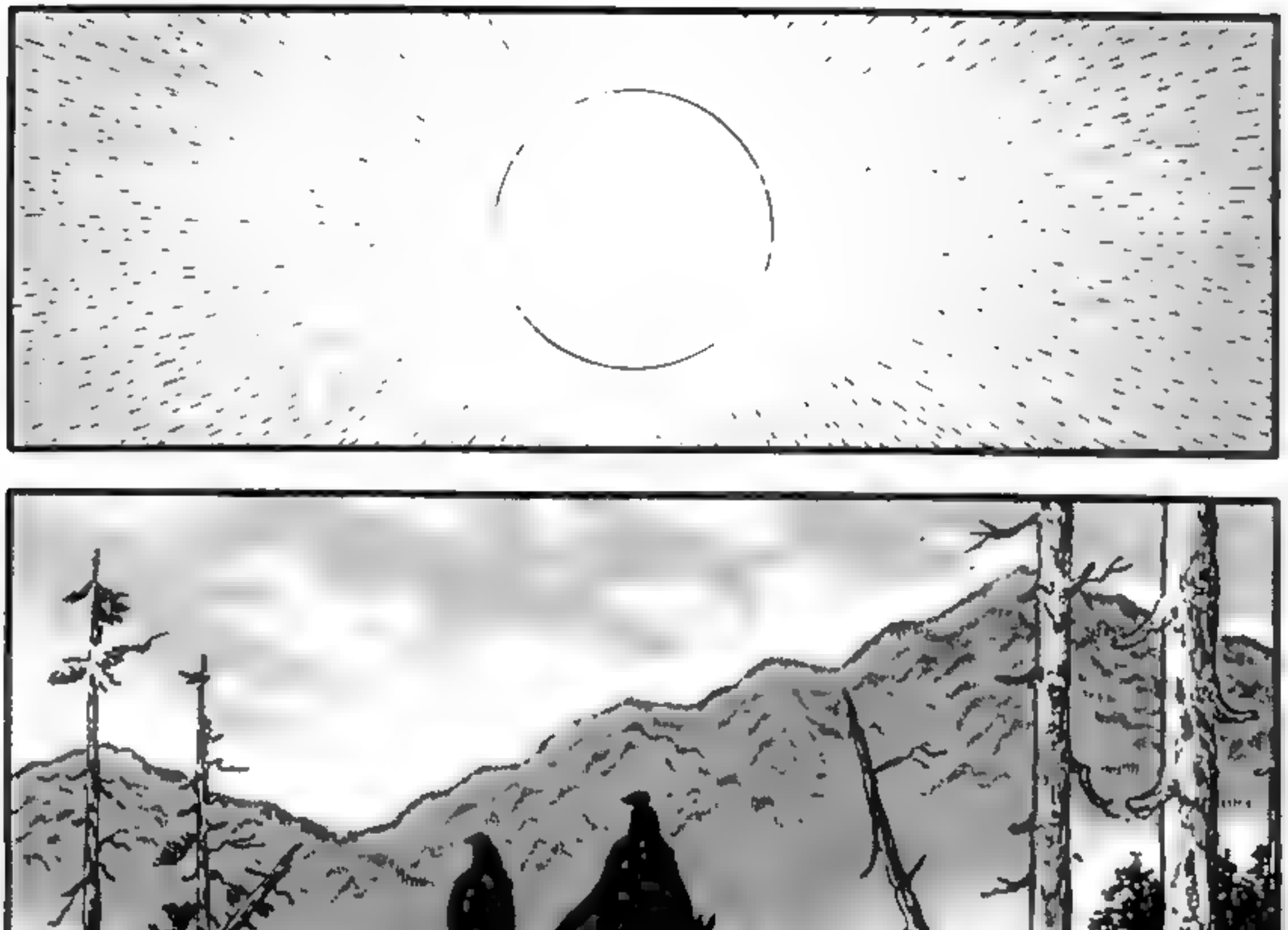
AH, NOW I SEE. YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO THINK ON YOUR FEET, JELME.

THE LAST THING THEY'D EXPECT IS AN ENEMY TO INFILTRATE THEIR CAMPS UNARMED AND UNCLOTHED, AFTER ALL. THEY'D HAVE TORTURED ME IF THEY SAW SOME FULLY ARMOURED MAN SNEAKING AROUND.

YES, KHAN.

BUT THE WEATHER IS QUITE COLD. YOU SHOULD PUT ON YOUR CLOTHES NOW.

TEMUCHIN SPENT THE REST OF NIGHT, REASSURED THAT HE HAD THE ASSISTANCE OF SUCH CAPABLE AND LOYAL FOLLOWERS AS JELME AND BO ORCHU



IT'S TEMUCHIN KHAN AND JELME!

HUH?

THEY'RE SAFE!

OUR KHAN IS BACK WITH JELME!

MY APOLOGIES FOR MAKING YOU ALL WORRY.

WE WERE ALL WORRIED SICK WHEN YOU DID NOT RETURN LAST NIGHT.

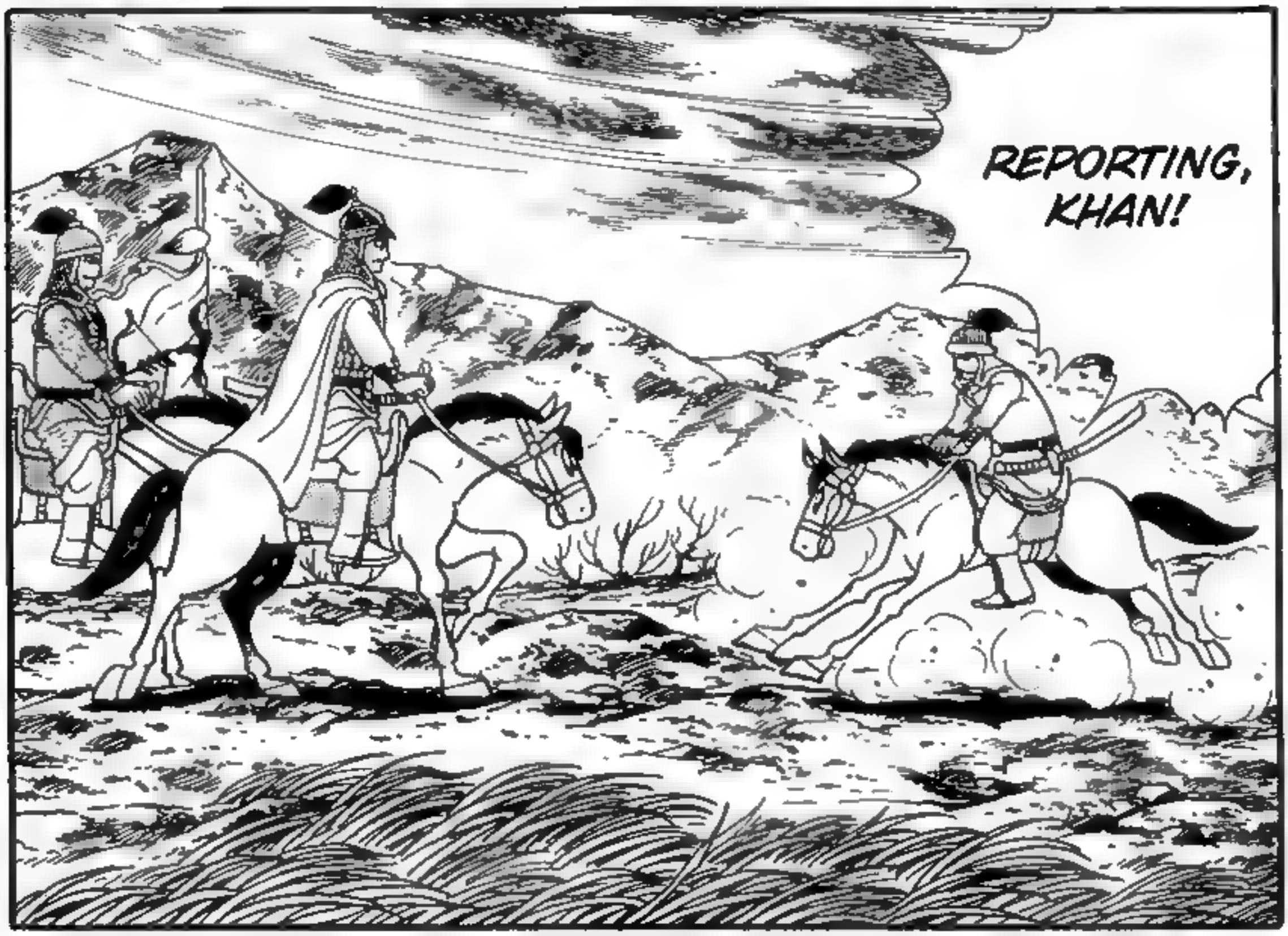
BUT NOW THAT I'M BACK, LET US RESUME OUR ATTACK ON THE TAYICHI'LIT SCUM!

I TOOK AN UNEXPECTED INJURY AND HAD TO SEEK REFUGE TEMPORARILY IN THE WOODS.

HAVING REGAINED THEIR LEADER, THE MONGOLS RUSHED FORTH AT THEIR ENEMIES, EACH MAN EAGER TO OUTDO THE OTHER.

Great Victory

THE TAYICHI'UT POSITIONS CONTINUED TO FALL ONE AFTER ANOTHER.


REPORTING, KHAN!

I HAVE NO NEED FOR TAYICHI'UT MEN! KILL ALL OF THEM!

TWO ENEMIES HAVE COME, SAYING THEY WISH TO SURRENDER.

SORKAN-SHIRA?

BUT ONE OF THEM SAYS HE IS SORKAN-SHIRA, FATHER OF CHIMBAI AND CHILA'UN.

YES, KHAN.

I OWE HIM A GREAT DEBT. BRING HIM TO ME.

YES, IT'S BEEN A WHILE, HAS IT NOT?

TEMUCHIN KHAN. IT IS ME, SORKAN-SHIRA.

I'M GLAD YOU DIDN'T.

WHEN TARKUTAI ENSLAVED ME, IT WAS YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN WHO HELPED ME ESCAPE. I HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN MY DEBT.

I STILL HAD MY OTHER WIFE AND CHILD TO LOOK AFTER. I COULD NOT RISK MY POSITION AT THAT TIME.

YOUR SONS CHIMBAI AND CHILA'UN ARE SPLENDID WARRIORS WHO'VE SERVED ME FOR A LONG TIME. WHY DID YOU NOT COME TO ME EARLIER AS WELL?

YES, KHAN.

VERY WELL. I AM GLAD TO HAVE YOU SERVING ME NOW IN ANY CASE.

I AM THE ARCHER JIRQO'ADAI.

BY THE WAY, WHO IS THIS MAN NEXT TO YOU?

IT IS NOT THAT I WISHED TO SURRENDER BUT RATHER THAT I'M TIRED OF SHOOTING ARROWS FOR A FUTILE PURPOSE.

AND WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SURRENDER?

WHAT IS IT?

I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK.

HMM...

SHOOTING FROM A HILL?

HOW MANY ARCHERS WERE THERE IN THE CAMPS WHO COULD HUNT ANIMALS ON THE PLAINS WHILE ALL THE WAY UP ON THE HILLS?

I WAS HAPPENED TO BE HIT BY AN ARCHER ALL THE WAY UP ON A HILL THE OTHER DAY. WOULD YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW WHO THAT ARCHER WAS?

I'D SAY... 40-50 MEN IN THE CAMPS COULD ACCURATELY HIT A TARGET FROM THAT FAR AWAY...

THAT'S RIGHT.

YESTERDAY ON THE HILL...?

AND?

THERE WERE ONLY TWO ARCHERS SHOOTING ON THE HILL THAT DAY.

THAT WAS YOU!?

AND I'M SURE THE ONE WHO HIT YOU WAS ME. I SHOT OFF AN ARROW AT A MAN DRESSED IN A FINE SUIT OF ARMOUR, THINKING HIM TO BE A WARRIOR OF HIGH RANK.

I'LL CUT OFF YOUR HEAD!

HMPH, BOIL OR BURN ME ALIVE. DO AS YOU WISH.

STOP!

YOU DID NOT HIDE THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH AND SPOKE HONESTLY, EVEN THOUGH I WOULD HAVE NO IDEA IF YOU WERE LYING OR NOT.

HM!?

HOW WOULD YOU FEEL BECOMING ONE OF MY FOLLOWERS?

WELL, IF YOU'RE FINE WITH IT...

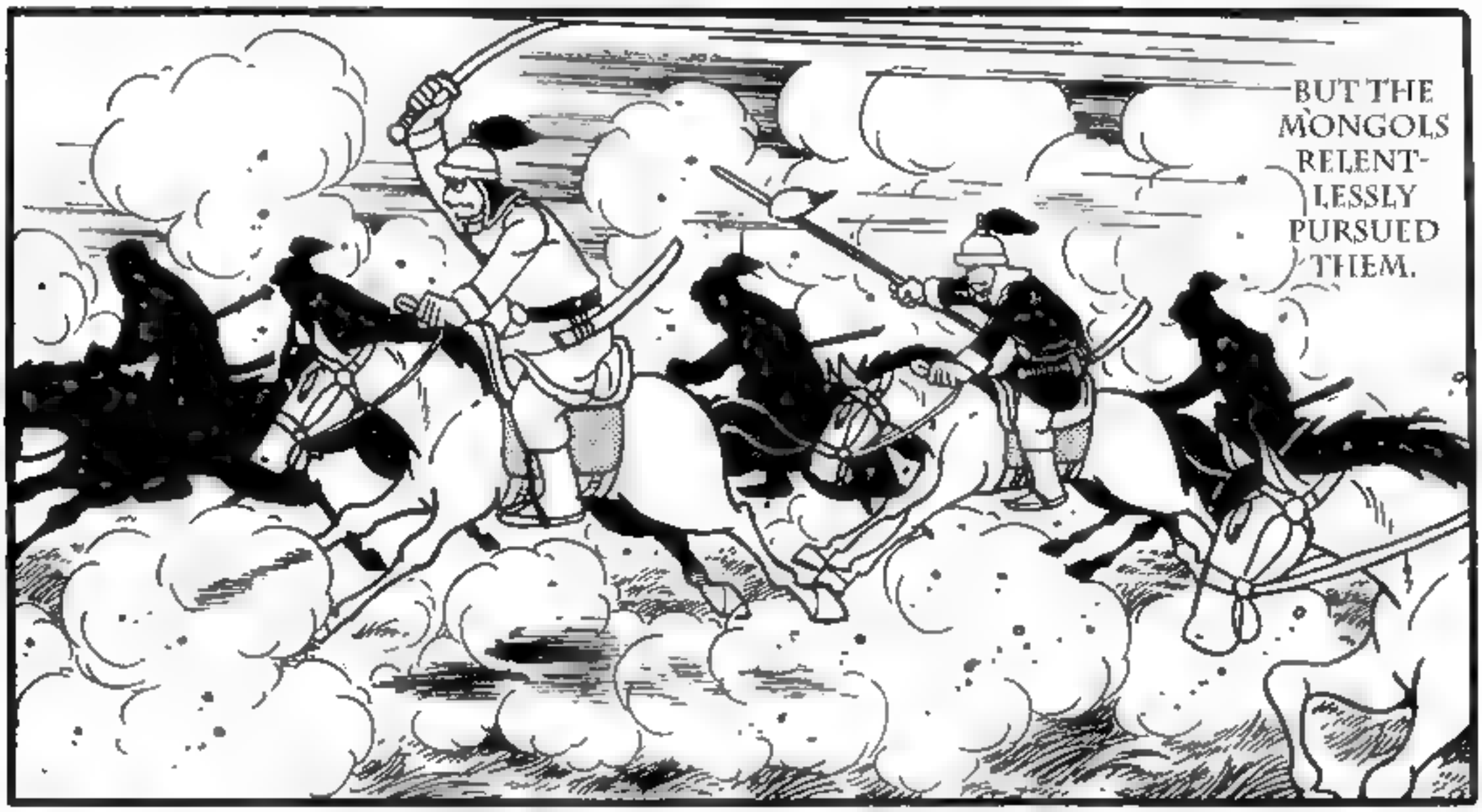
I VALUE BOLD, HONEST MEN. WHAT DO YOU SAY?

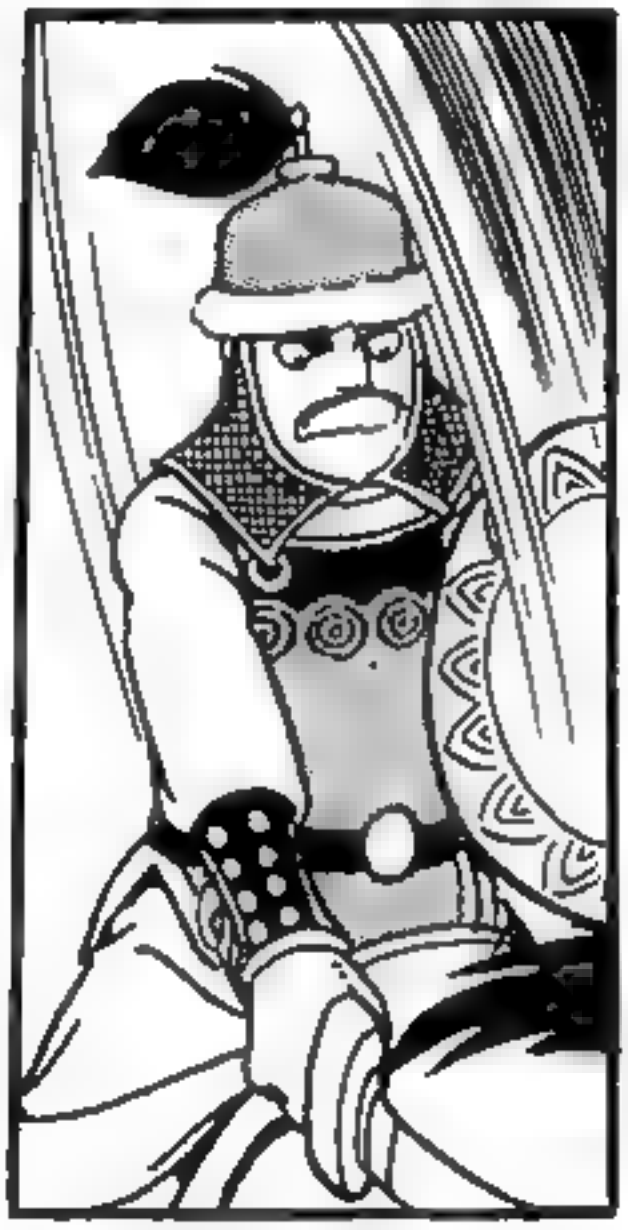
YES, KHAN.

FROM TODAY FORTH, YOU WILL BE KNOWN AS JEBE (ARROW). THINK OF THIS AS A NEW BEGINNING AND DEDICATE YOUR LIFE TO ME.

ALRIGHT THEN! LET'S FINISH OFF THE TAYICHI'UTS!

THE VICTORY WAS COMPLETE. THE REMAINING TAYICHI'UTS FLED IN TERROR.

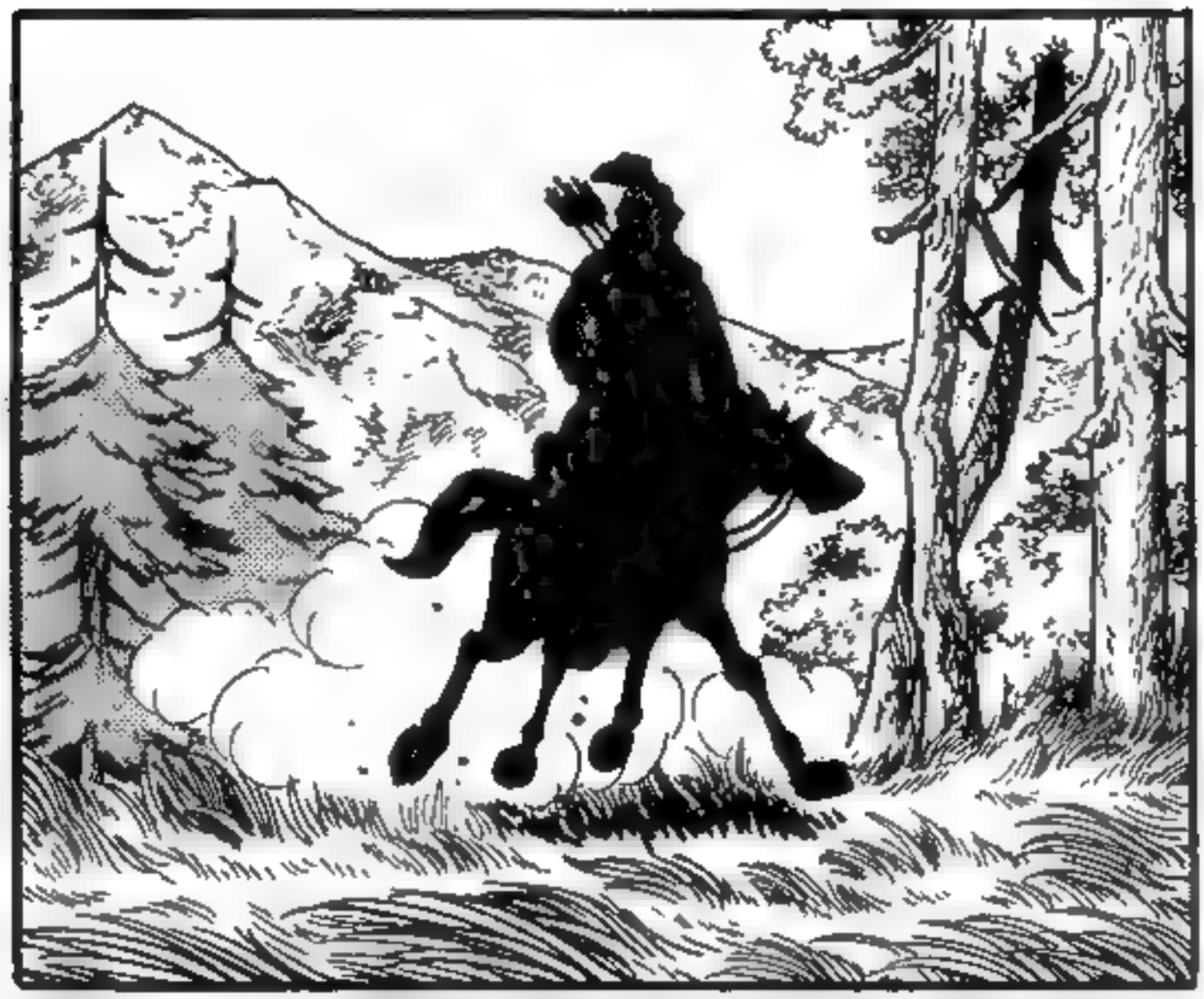

BUT THE MONGOLS RELENT-LESSLY PURSUED THEM.



THE EARTH WAS COVERED IN BLOOD

THE MEN HAVE SPLIT OFF INTO GROUPS AND ARE SEARCHING FOR HIM AS WE SPEAK.

HAVE YOU FOUND THEIR LEADER TARKUTAI YET?



I MUST KILL THAT MAN WITH MY OWN HANDS...

REPORTING, KHAN! ACCORDING TO TAYICHI'UT CAPTIVES, TARKUTAI HAS ALREADY FLED FROM THIS AREA WITH A FEW TRIBESMEN!

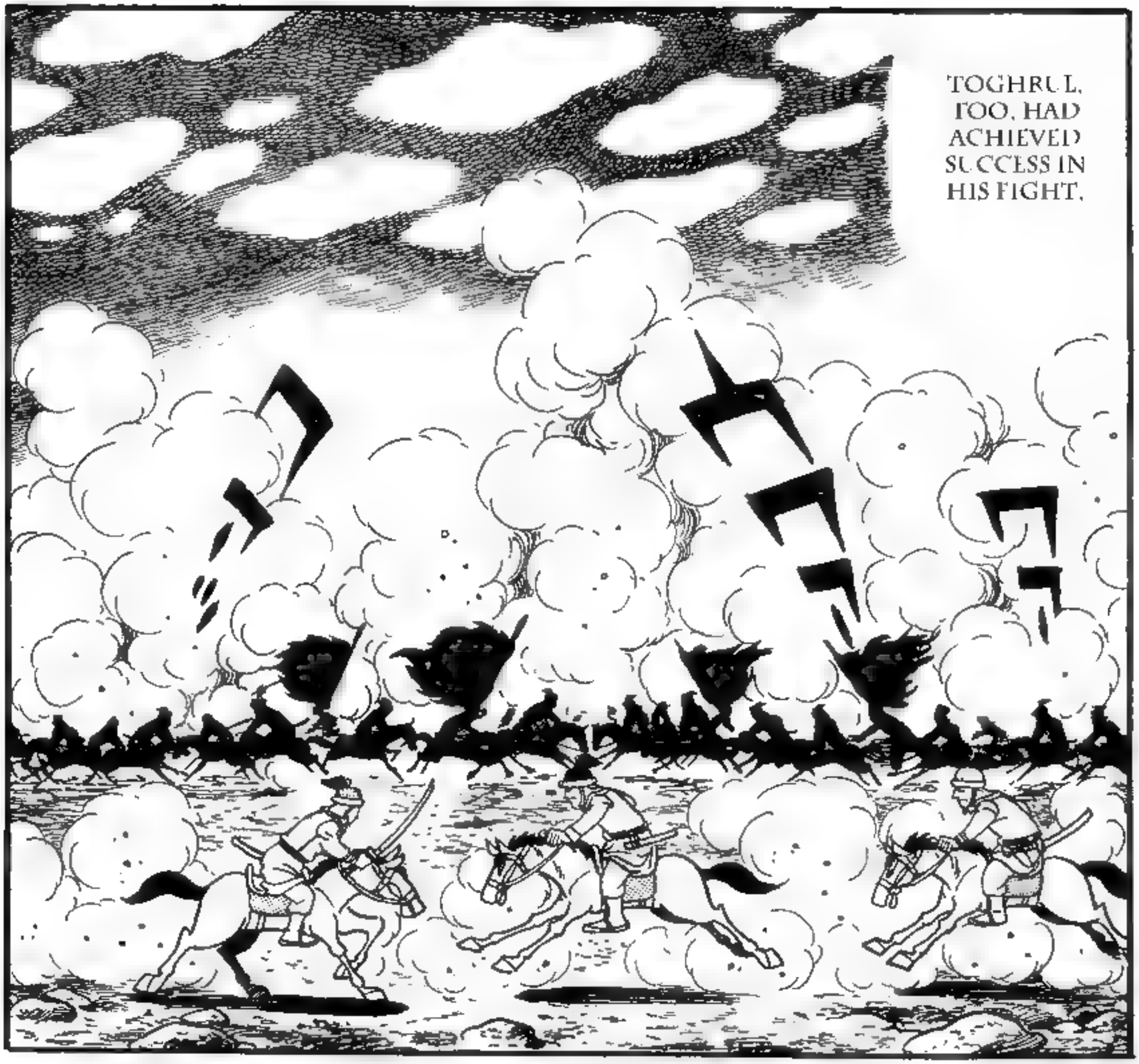
CALL OFF THE SEARCH AND GATHER THE MEN!

SO HE'S ALREADY ESCAPED...

WE'VE MANAGED TO ROUT THE TAYICHI'UT HERE ON THIS FRONT, BUT I WONDER HOW TOGHRUL IS FARING AGAINST JAMUKA...

YES, KHAN!

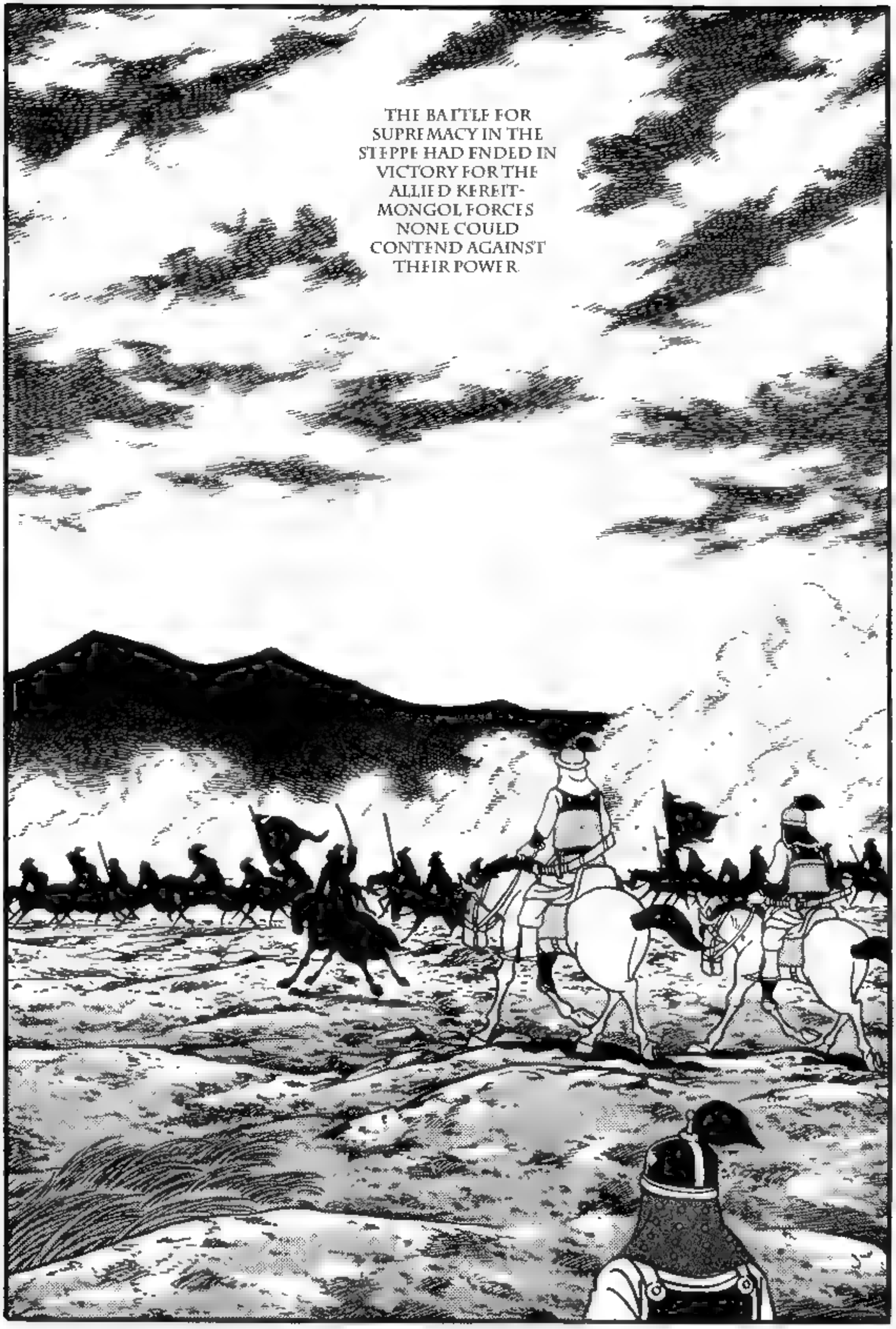
ALL TROOPS, HEAD BACK TO KÖYITÄN IMMEDIATELY!


TOGHRUL, TOO, HAD ACHIEVED SUCCESS IN HIS FIGHT.

THOUGH JAMUKA MANAGED TO ESCAPE ALIVE

THE VIC-
TORIOUS
TRIBES NOW
GATHERED
AT THE
PLAINS AT
KOYITAN.

AND
EXCITEDLY
SHOUTED
CHANTS OF
GLORY


THE BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY IN THE STEPPE HAD ENDED IN VICTORY FOR THE ALLIED KEREIT-MONGOL FORCES NONE COULD CONTEND AGAINST THEIR POWER.

TEMUCHIN AND TOGHRUL NOW MEET AT A GER TO DISCUSS POST BATTLE MATTERS

ONE BEING WHICH TRIBE WOULD FALL UNDER WHOSE AUTHORITY

THE NAIMANS ARE MAINLY SITUATED ACROSS THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS. THEY MAY HAVE SENT MEN OVER TO ASSIST JAMUKA, BUT THAT DOES NOT MEAN THEY ARE DEFEATED.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH THE NAIMANS WHO ASSISTED JAMUKA?

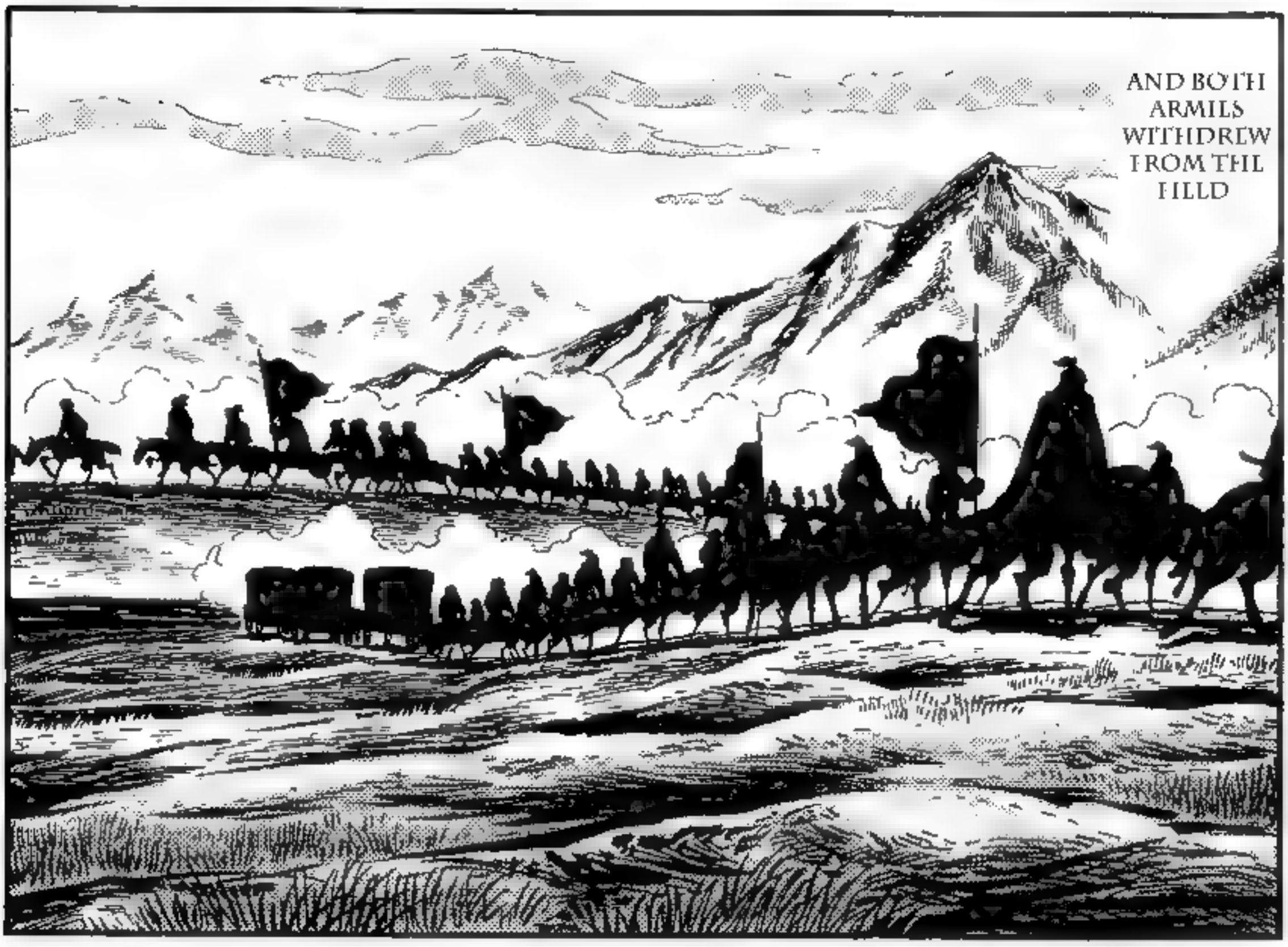
YES, GOOD POINT.

WE SHOULD CAMPAIGN AGAINST THEM NEXT YEAR AND IF WE ARE TO TRIUMPH, THEN WE CAN DISCUSS WHO WILL RULE OVER THEM.

UNDERSTOOD.

THEN SETTING ASIDE THE NAIMANS, THE REST OF THE TRIBES WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE TWO OF US AS WE'VE JUST DISCUSSED.

AND WITH
THAT THE
MEETING
CON
CLUDED.


AND BOTH
ARMIES
WITHDREW
FROM THE
FIELD

fissure

AFTER THE BATTLE OF KÖYITÄN, THE VARIOUS TRIBES OF EASTERN MONGOLIA NOW FOUND THEMSELVES UNDER EITHER TOGHRUL OR TEMUCHIN'S AUTHORITY

HOWEVER, THERE WERE STILL SOME REMNANTS OF DEFEATED TRIBES POSING A THREAT

THEY MARAUDED MANY LIGHTLY DEFENDED MONGOL CAMPS

1202 A.D.

YES, THEY SLAUGHTERED THE MEN AND TOOK OUR WOMEN.

WHAT!? TARTAR BANDITS RAIDED ONE OF OUR CAMPS!?

YES, KHAN.

FINE, I WILL CALL UP 10,000 WARRIORS AND EXTERMINATE EVEN THE TARTAR REMNANTS!

THEY DARE BARE THEIR FANGS AT US AGAIN!? DID THEY NOT SEE WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME THEY DID THAT!?

10,000 WARRIORS WERE GATHERED FROM THE MONGOL TRIBES

YES?

YES?

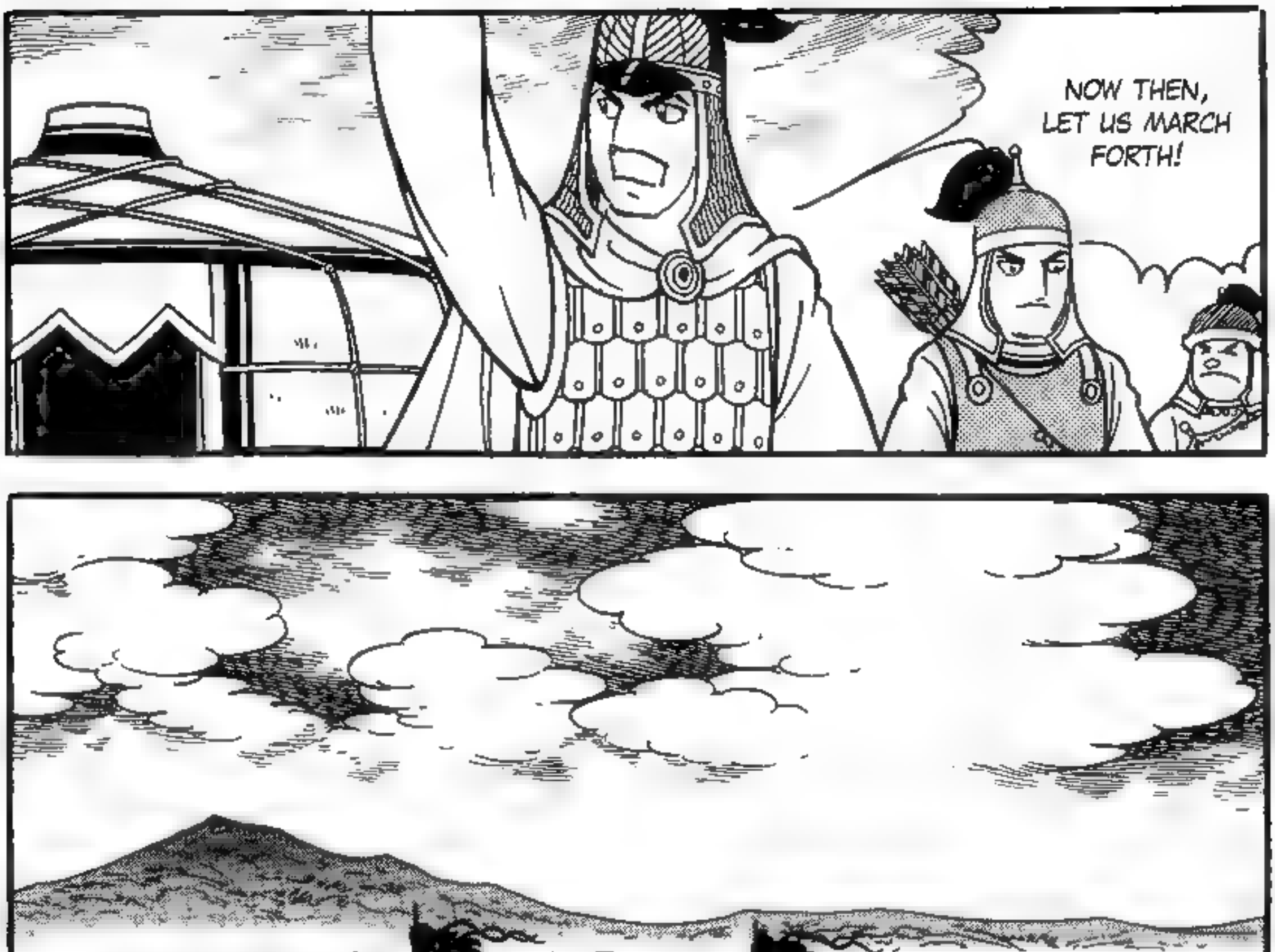
YES?

ALTAN! KUCHAR! DA'ARITAI!

WHAT!? FOR WHAT REASON DO YOU MAKE SUCH AN ORDER?

YOU MAY BE MY ELDERS AND THE CHIEFS OF YOUR OWN TRIBES, BUT AS YOUR KHAN, I GIVE YOU THIS ORDER FOR THE COMING BATTLE. WHEN VICTORY IS OURS, FREELY TAKING LOOT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN!

MANY TRIBES AND FAMILIES HAVE LOST THEIR POSSESSIONS IN PAST RAIDS. THEY MUST BE COMPENSATED FOR THEIR LOSS. THE SPOILS OF WAR BELONG COLLECTIVELY TO OUR CONFEDERATION AND TO NO SINGLE MAN ALONE! I WILL DISTRIBUTE THE LOOT SO THAT NO INJUSTICE IS DONE.


NOW THEN, LET US MARCH FORTH!

IT'S ABSURD!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF TEMUCHIN'S ORDERS?

EXACTLY! HE SPEAKS OF DOING JUSTICE, BUT IT IS INJUST TO FORBID A MAN FROM RICHES WHEN HE RISKS HIS LIFE!

HE'S DELUSIONAL IF HE THINKS HE CAN CHANGE THE TRADITIONAL CUSTOMS OF WAR ON THE STEPPE. IT'S **BECAUSE** WAR OFFERS A CHANCE FOR A MAN TO PLUNDER THAT WARS ARE WAGED IN THE FIRST PLACE!

YES.

TEMUCHIN IS IN THE WRONG FOR VIOLATING OUR ANCIENT CUSTOMS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO HEED HIS ORDERS.

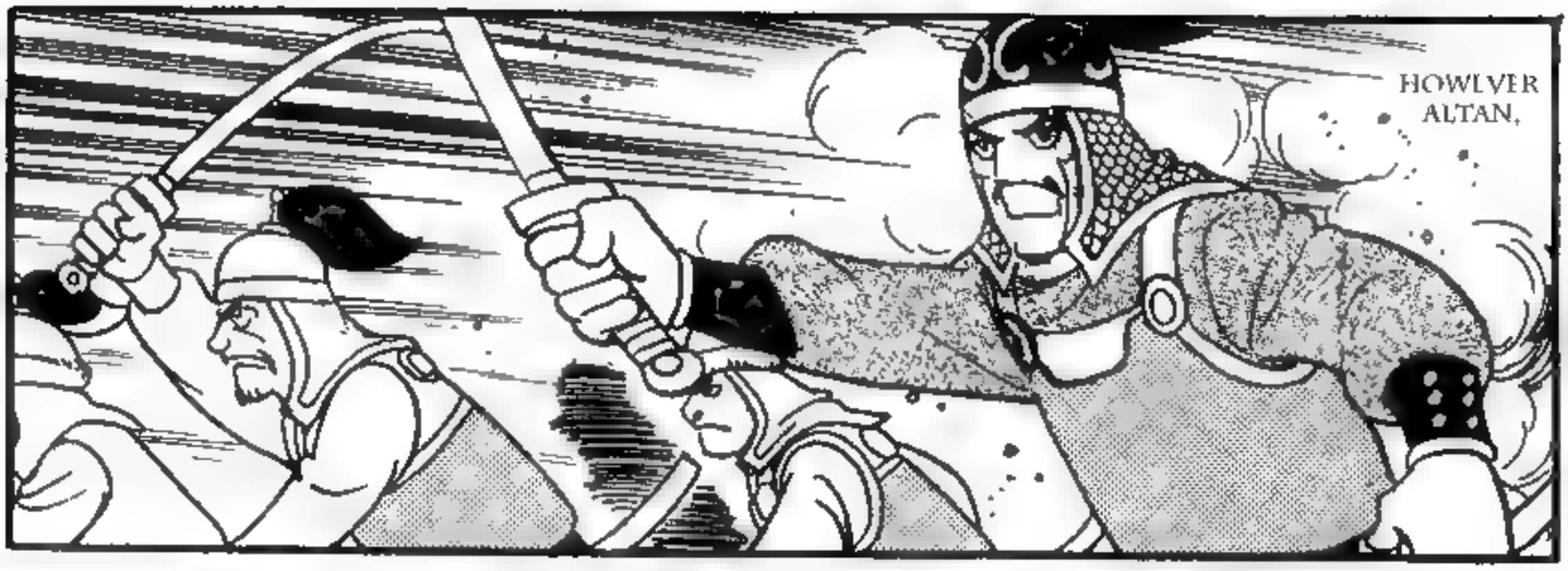
TEMUCHIN'S ARMY MARCHED FORTH IN SEARCH OF THE TARTAR FORCES.

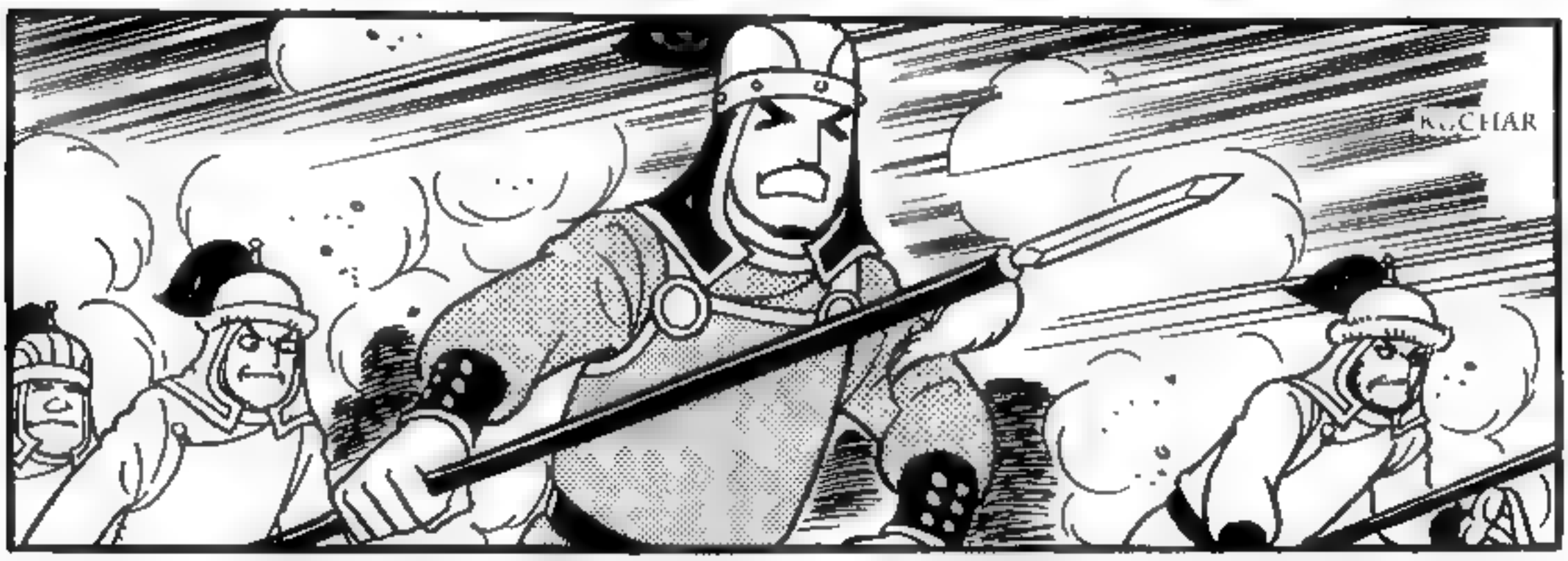
UPON FINDING THE TARTAR CAMPS, THE MONGOLS CHARGED AND TOOK THEM BY SURPRISE. TRUE TO HIS NAME, JEBE FLEW LIKE AN ARROW DEEP INTO ENEMY RANKS.

THE MONGOLS FOUGHT WITH TERRIBLE FEROCITY TO EXTERMINATE THEIR MOST HATED FOE.

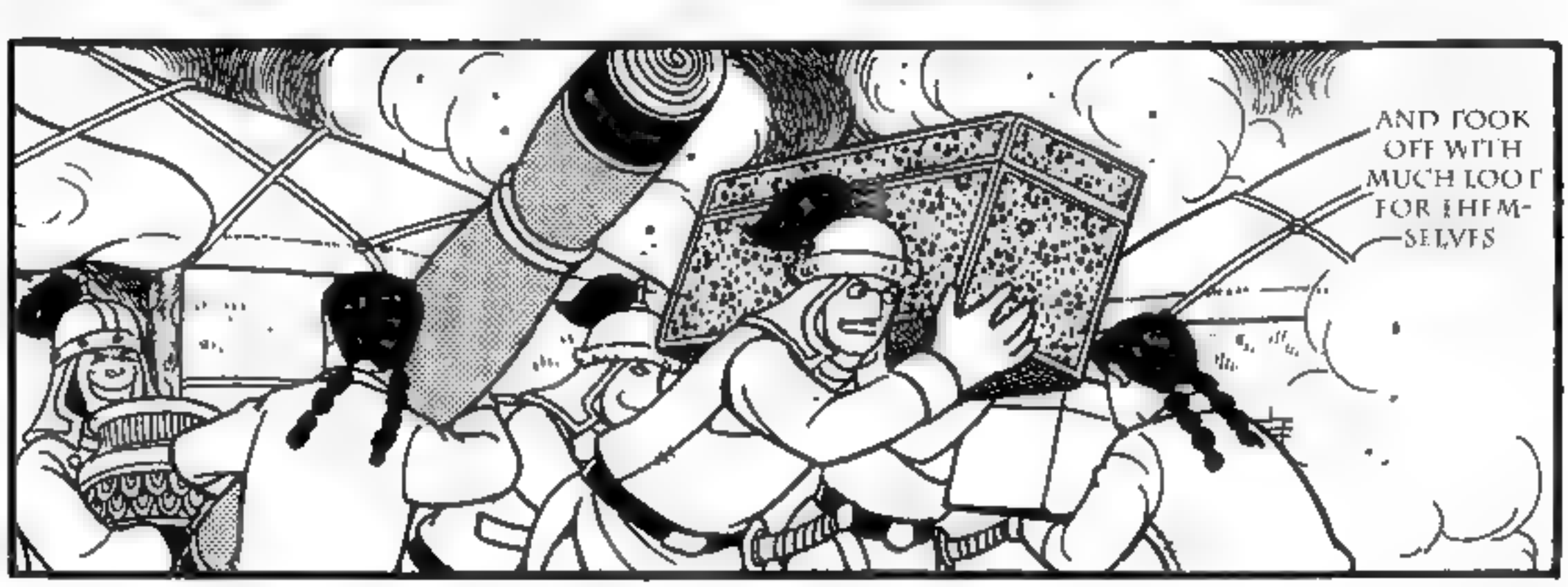
WERE MERCILESSLY CUT DOWN

THE TARTARS


HOWEVER ALTAN,


K..CHAR

AND DAARITAI IGNORED TEMUCHIN'S ORDERS


AND TOOK OFF WITH MUCH LOOT FOR THEM-SELVES

THE REMNANT TARTAR FORCES WERE CLEANLY EXTERMINATED.

YES, KHAN.

JEBE. KUBILAI. I EXPRESSLY FORBID THE TAKING OF LOOT FOR ONESELF BEFORE BATTLE, DID I NOT?

AND YET ALTAN, KUCHAR, AND DA'ARITAI DISOBEYED AND TOOK OFF WITH MUCH LOOT TO SATISFY THEIR SELFISH DESIRES.

YES, KHAN!

I COMMAND YOU TWO TO CONFISCATE ALL LOOT THEY HAVE TAKEN!

JEBE AND KUBILAI LED A BODY OF TROOPS TO THE CAMPS OF ALTAN, KUCHAR, AND DA'ARITAI.

YES, YOU HAVE GONE AGAINST OUR KHAN'S ORDERS.

WHAT? I MUST GIVE UP ALL THE LOOT!?

STILL, YOU UNDERSTOOD AND CONSENTED TO IT BEFORE BATTLE, DID YOU NOT? OR ARE YOU IMPLYING A KHAN'S ORDERS CAN BE IGNORED?

BUT TAKING LOOT FOR ONSELF IS OUR ANCIENT CUSTOM! HOW CAN TEMUCHIN EXPECT US TO GO AGAINST THAT!?

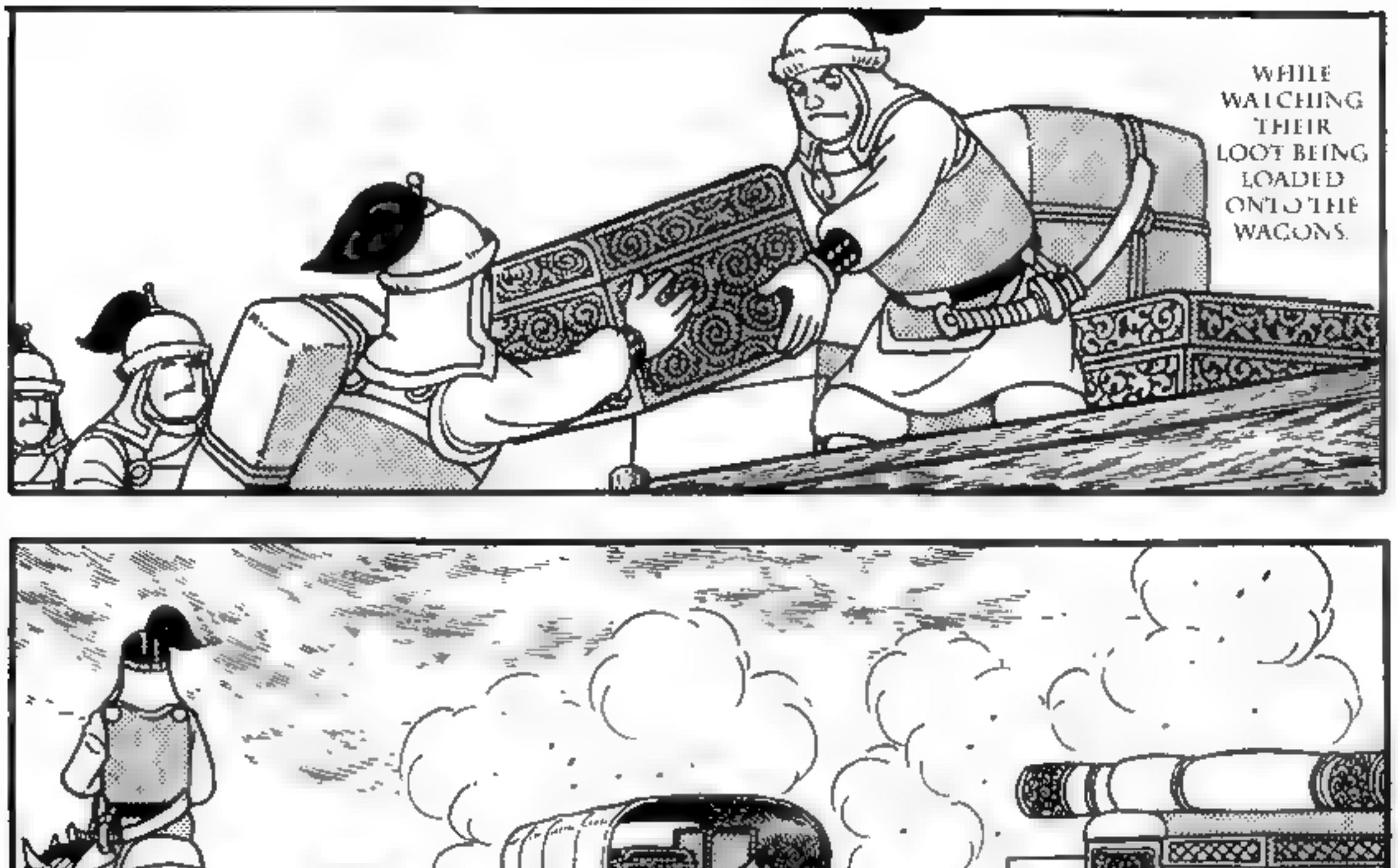
THEN YOU WILL HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH US CONFISCATING YOUR LOOT.

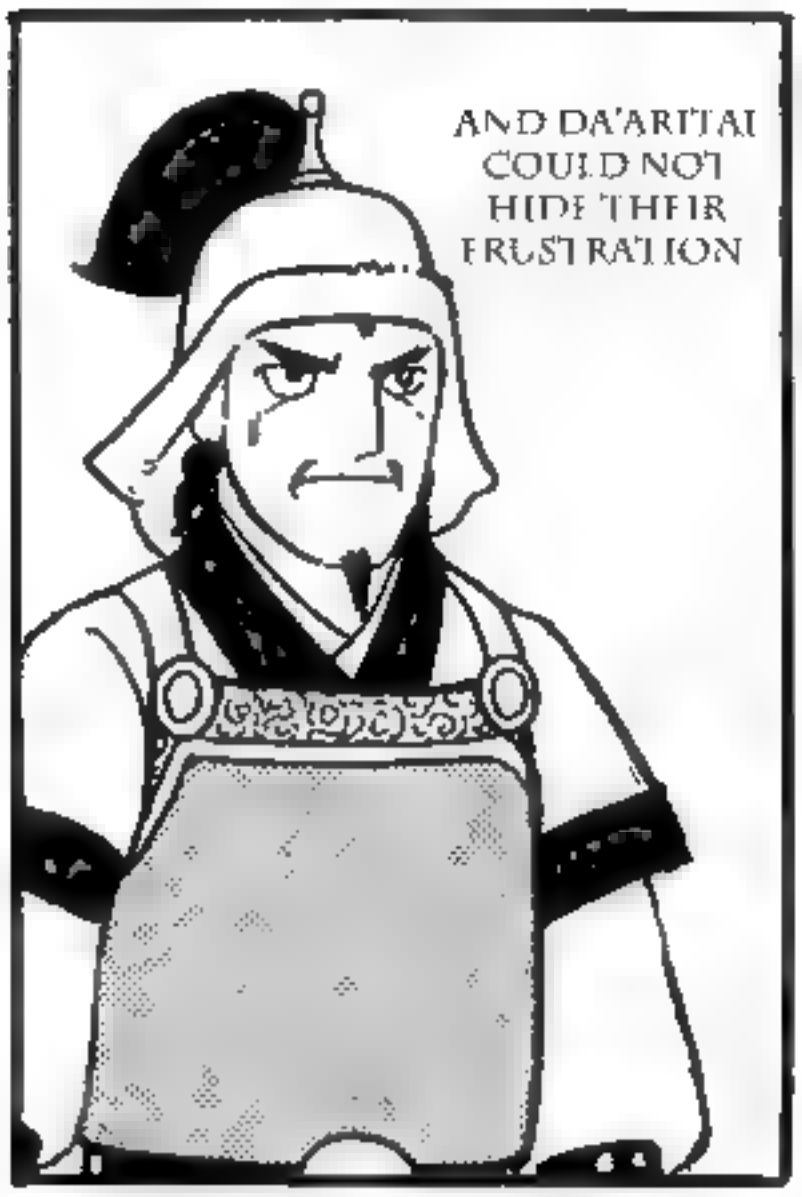
WELL... N-NO, I... THAT'S NOT WHAT I INTENDED...

VERY WELL.

...FINE. TAKE IT AND LEAVE.

LOAD THE LOOT ONTO THE WAGONS!

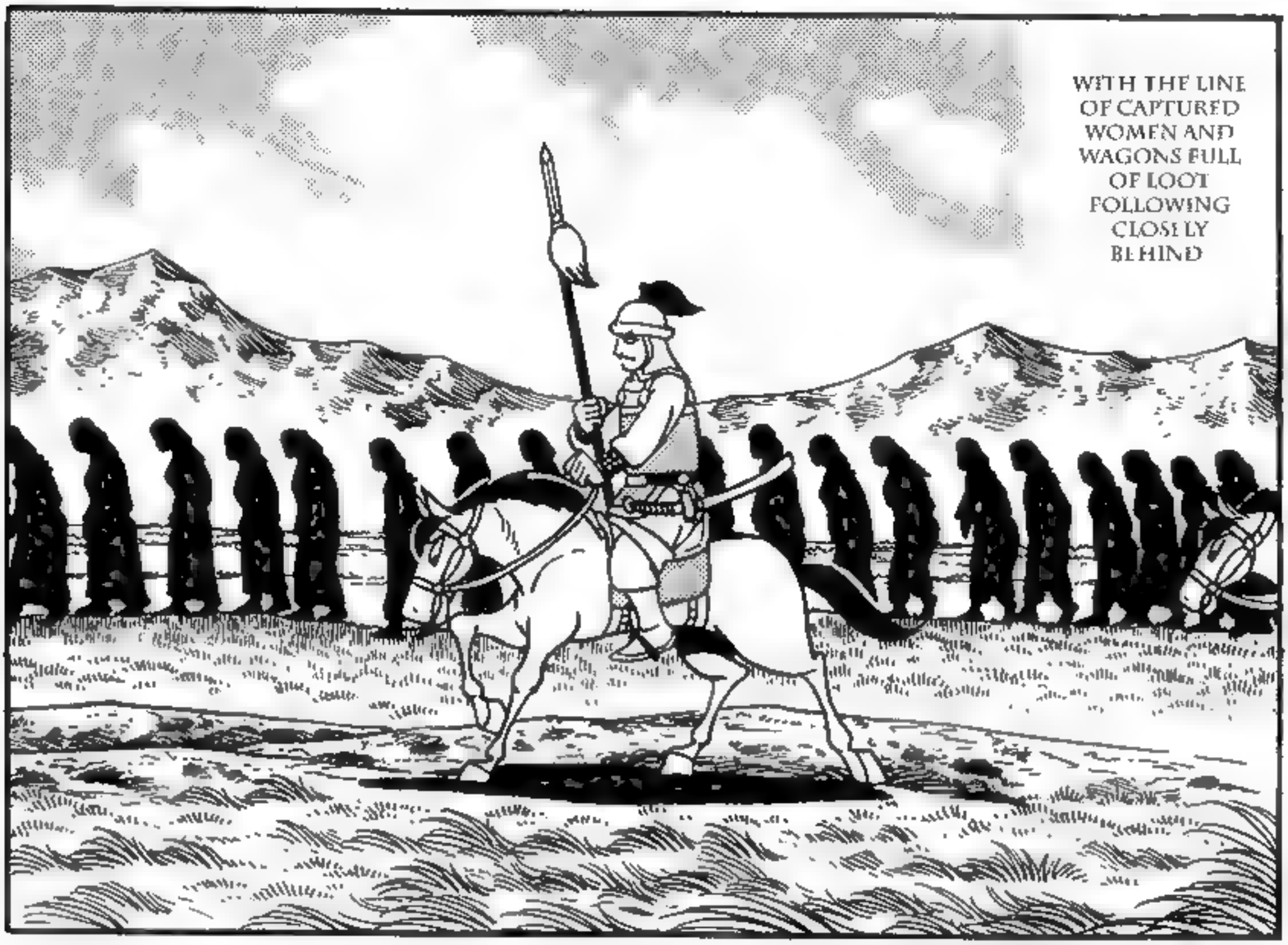

WHILE WATCHING THEIR LOOT BEING LOADED ONTO THE WAGONS.


AND DA'ARITAI COULD NOT HIDE THEIR FRUSTRATION

KUCHAR,

ALTAN,

THE ARMY NOW MARCHED BACK HOME


WITH THE LINE OF CAPTURED WOMEN AND WAGONS FULL OF LOOT FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND

KEREIT CAMPS

YES, WANG KHAN.

WHAT? TEMUCHIN EXTERMINATED REMNANT TARTAR FORCES AND HAS TAKEN OVER THEIR LAND?

YES...

FATHER, TEMUCHIN IS FREE TO USE HIS ARMY AS HE SEES FIT, BUT IF WE MAKE NO RESPONSE, THEN WE ARE PERMIT-TING HIM TO REIGN UNCHECKED.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND, SENGGUM?

IF TEMUCHIN IS EXPANDING HIS TERRITORY AND INFLUENCE, THEN WE MUST DO THE SAME.

BUT WHICH TRIBE?

WE SHOULD HUNT OUT REMNANT FORCES AS WELL AND TAKE OVER THE LANDS THEY CURRENTLY ROAM IN.

AH, I SEE.

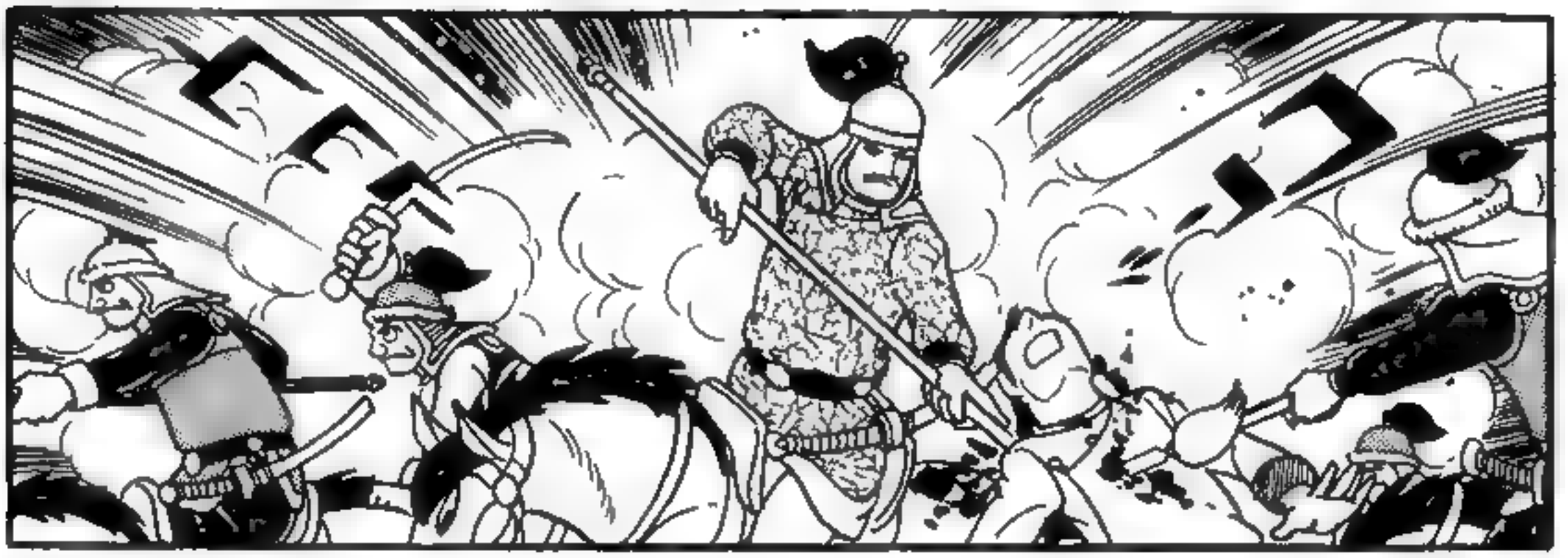
THE MERKITS, OF COURSE.

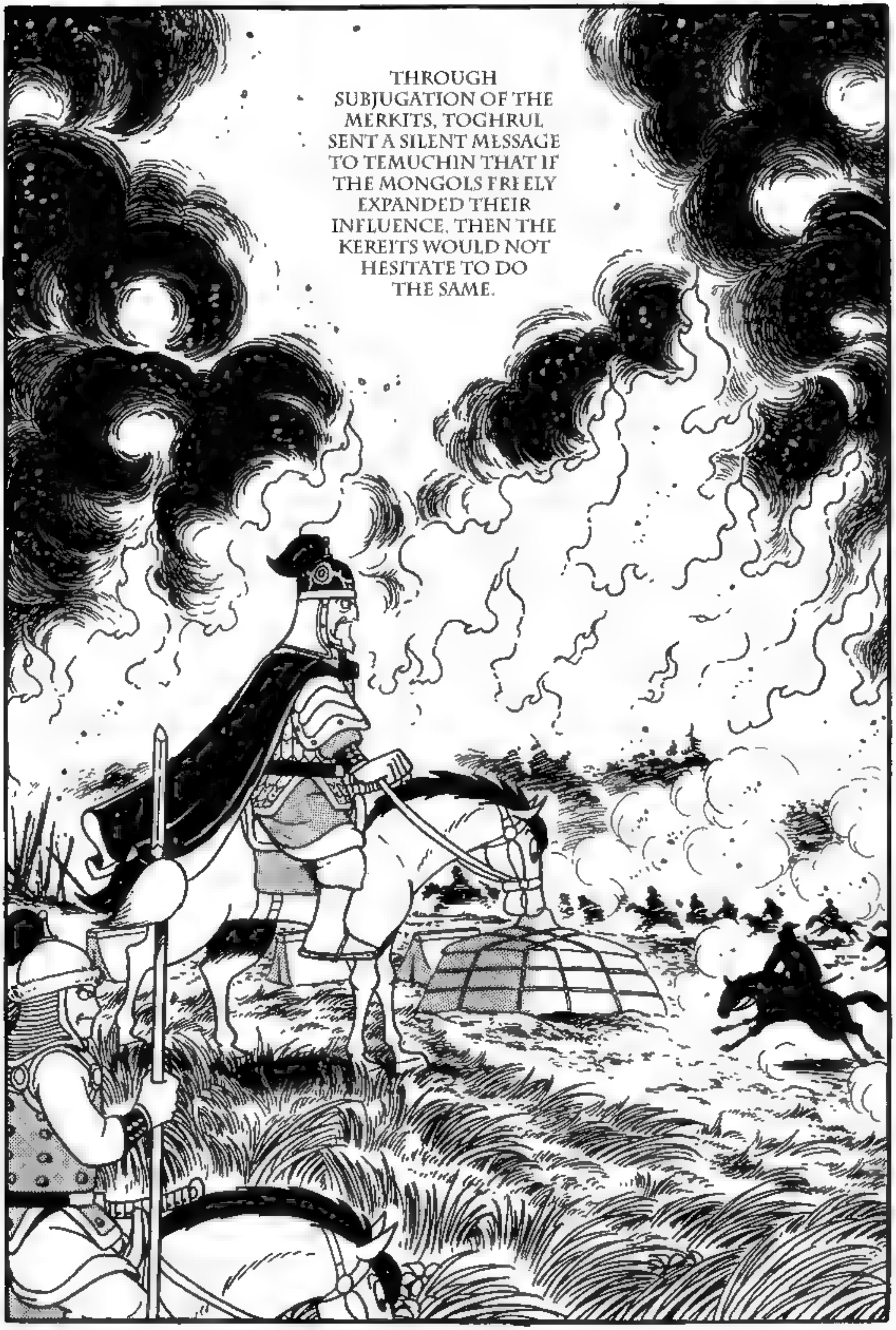
YES, FATHER.

GOOD, CALL UP THE TROOPS.

AND SO, TOGHRUL AND THE KEREITS SET OFF ON A CAMPAIGN OF THEIR OWN.

THE MERKITS WERE RUTHLESSLY RUN DOWN




THROUGH SUBJUGATION OF THE MERKITS, TOGHRUL SENT A SILENT MESSAGE TO TEMUCHIN THAT IF THE MONGOLS FREELY EXPANDED THEIR INFLUENCE, THEN THE KEREITS WOULD NOT HESITATE TO DO THE SAME.

Jamuka's Cunning

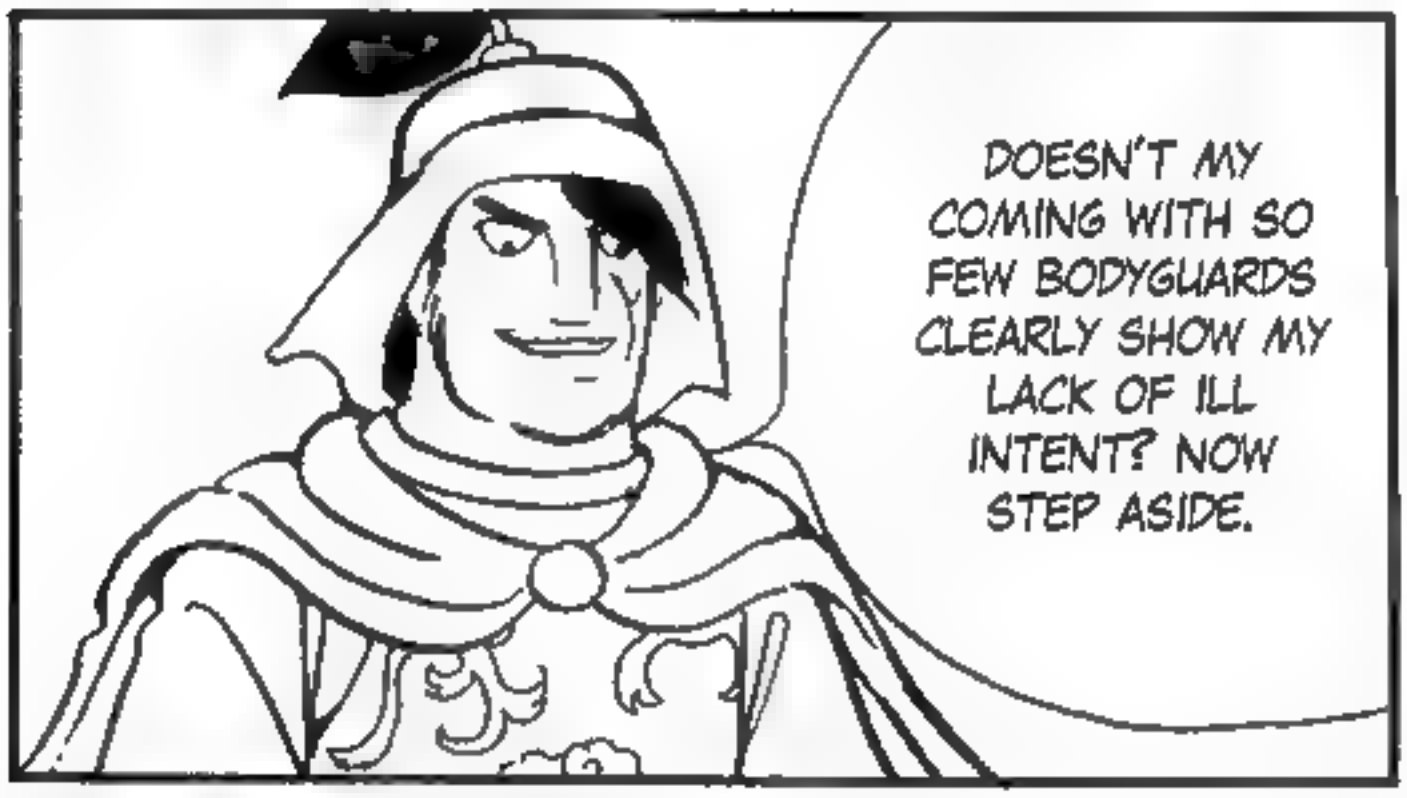
CAMPS OF SENGGUM, SON OF TOGHRUL

RIDERS APPROACHING!

HMP

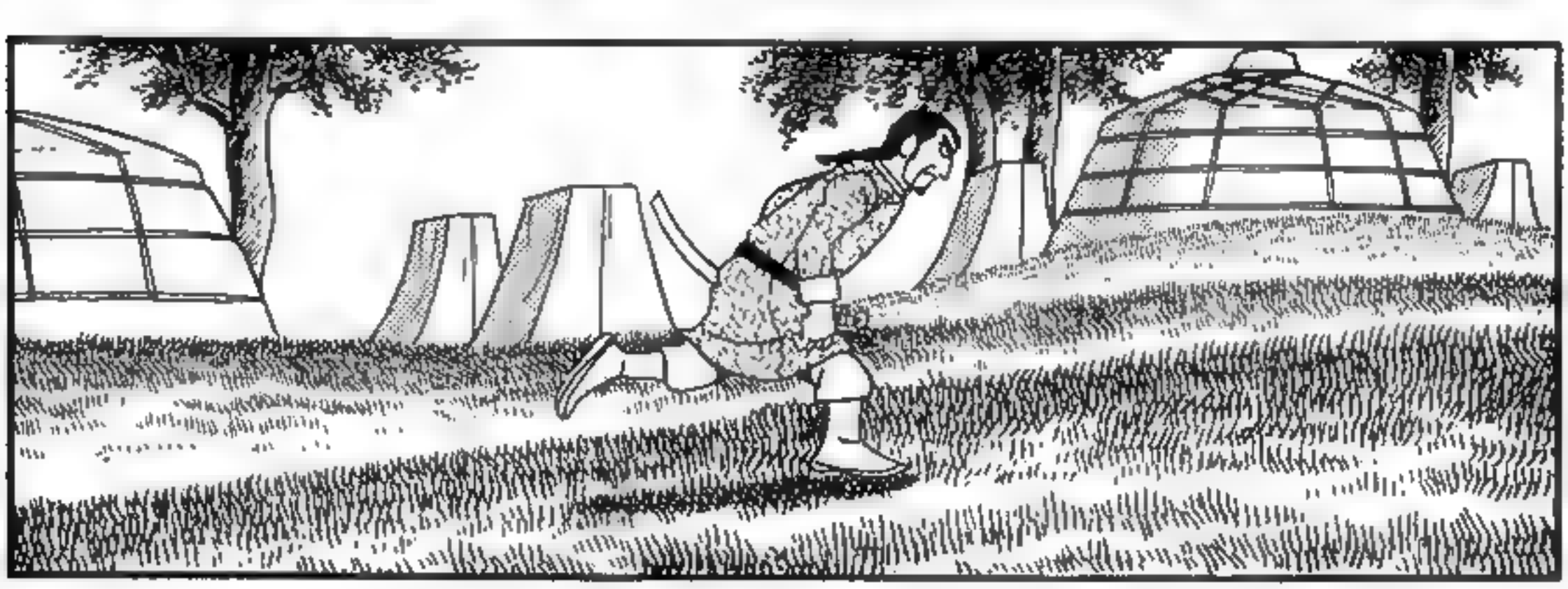
ENEMY ALERT!
AHH! THAT'S JAMUKA!
HALT! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING!?

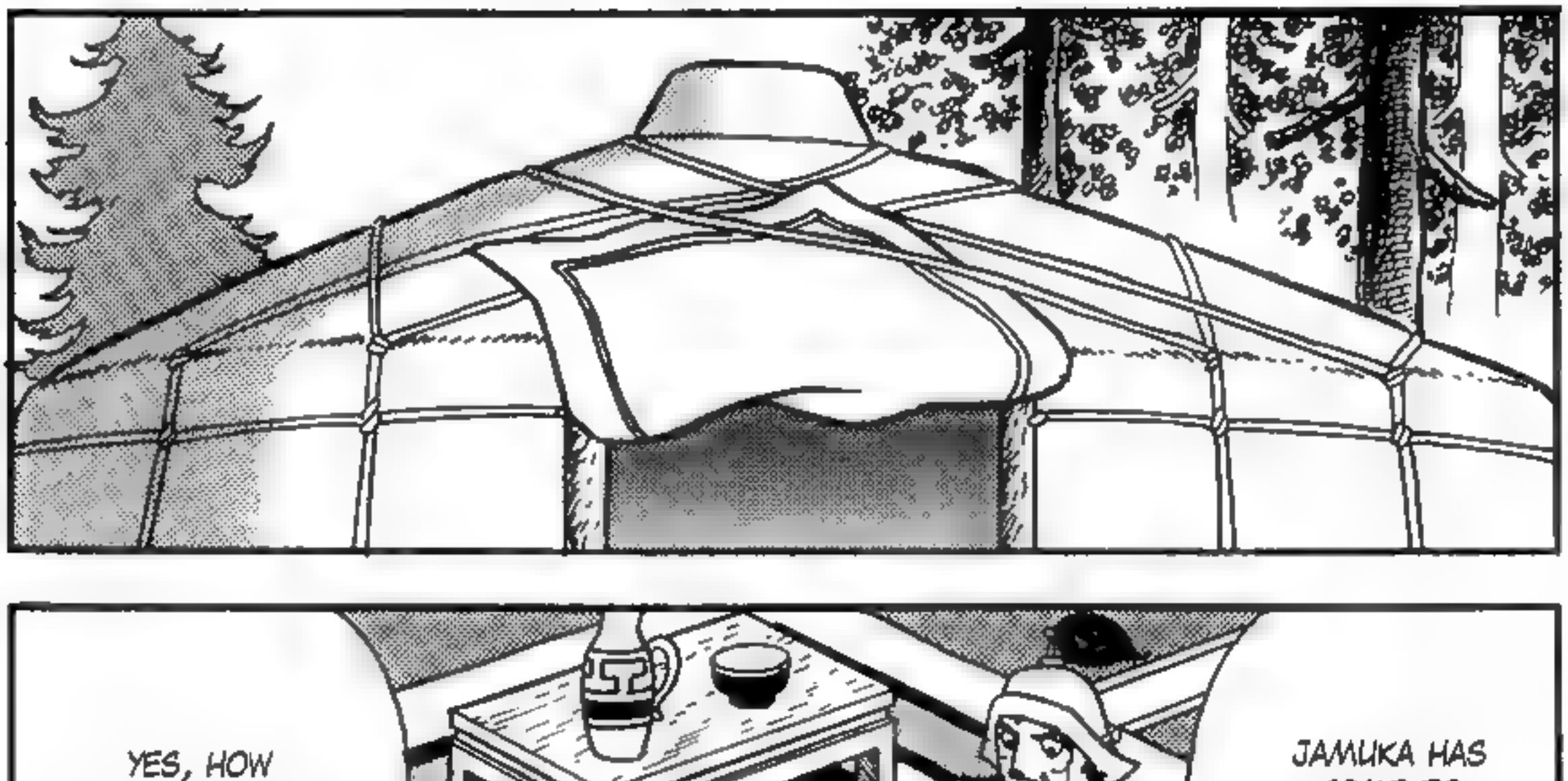
SETTLE DOWN. I HAVE COME TO SPEAK WITH SENGGUM. THAT IS ALL SO LAY DOWN YOUR ARMS.

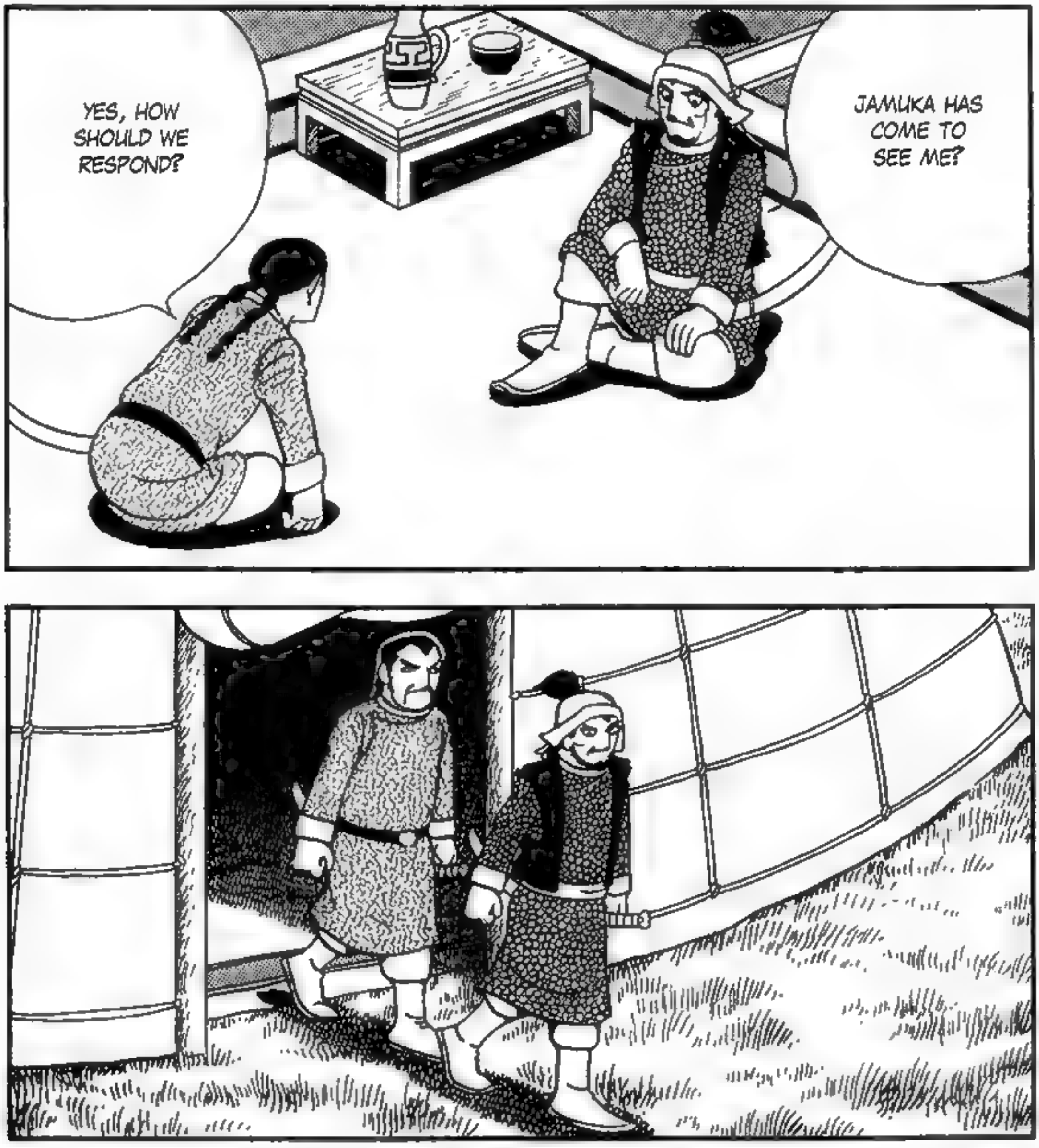

DOESN'T MY COMING WITH SO FEW BODYGUARDS CLEARLY SHOW MY LACK OF ILL INTENT? NOW STEP ASIDE.

HA! AS IF WE'D SIMPLY BELIEVE THE LEADER OF THE ANTI-KEREIT/MONGOL ALLIANCE!

I'LL GO SPEAK WITH SENGGUM SO THE REST OF YOU, STAY ON GUARD!






YES, HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?
JAMUKA HAS COME TO SEE ME?

WHY HAVE YOU COME?

GOOD DAY, SENGGUM. I AM GURKHAN JAMUKA OF THE JADARATS.

WHAT!?

TO SURRENDER.

I CAME SPECIFICALLY TO YOU TO ASK IF YOU COULD SMOOTH THINGS OVER BETWEEN YOUR FATHER AND I.

THANK YOU.

I SEE. COME INSIDE MY GER. WE CAN TALK THINGS OVER THOROUGHLY INSIDE.

YES.

SIT AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME.

WELL, CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE CHANGED QUITE A BIT SINCE MY DEFEAT AT KÖYITÄN.

SO WHY DOES THE LEADER OF THE ANTI-MONGOL/KEREIT ALLIANCE SUDDENLY CHANGE HIS MIND AND SURRENDER?

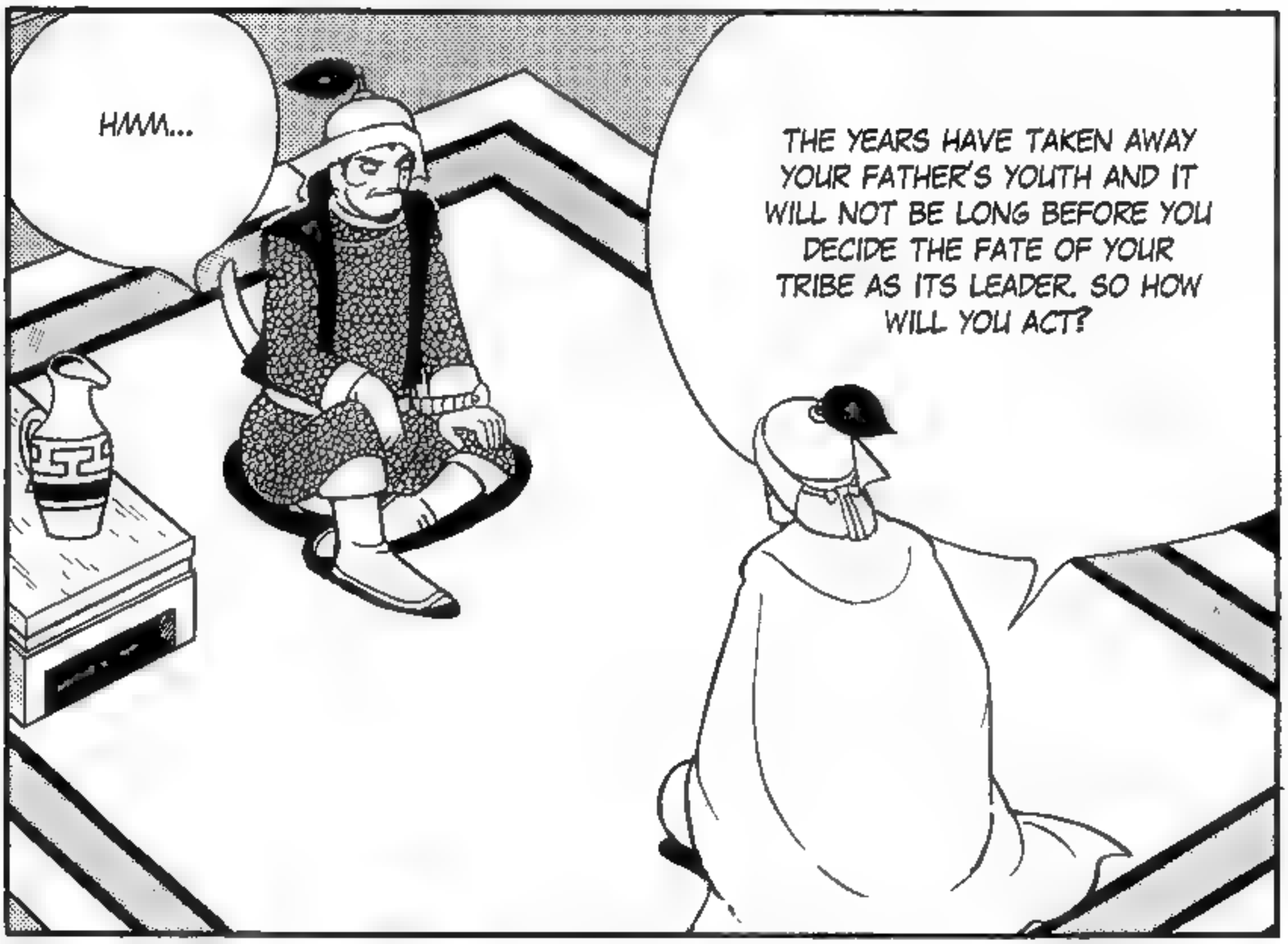
MEANWHILE, I HEAR TEMUCHIN HAS GROWN POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE KEREITS.

HIS ONE AND ONLY ULTIMATE GOAL IS CLEAR TO ALL: TO BECOME THE SUPREME RULER OF THE STEPPE.

HE HAS DIVIDED HIS TROOPS INTO LIGHT SKIRMISHERS, HEAVY LANCERS, AND SUPPLY TROOPS. THESE MEN ARE TRAINED ACCORDINGLY TO THEIR PURPOSE IN BATTLE AND INSTILLED WITH HARSH DISCIPLINE SO THAT EVEN THE PROSPECT OF LOOT WILL NOT DISORGANIZE THEM.

.....

HIS STRENGTH IS EVEN WITH THE KEREITS PRESENTLY, BUT IF I WERE TO AID YOUR TRIBE, TOGETHER WE CAN PREVENT TEMUCHIN'S ASPIRATIONS.


HMM...
THE YEARS HAVE TAKEN AWAY YOUR FATHER'S YOUTH AND IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE YOU DECIDE THE FATE OF YOUR TRIBE AS ITS LEADER. SO HOW WILL YOU ACT?

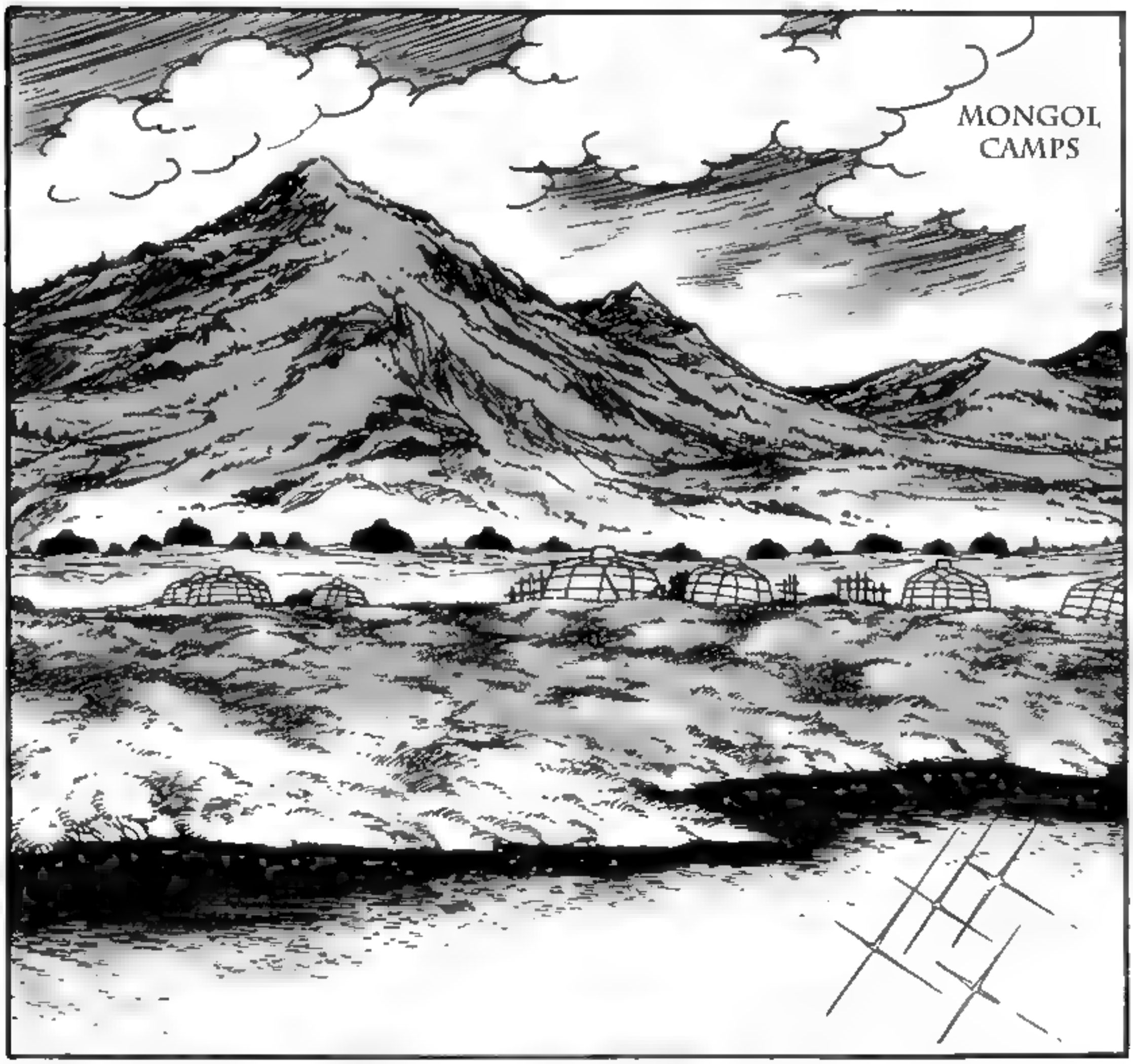
JUST AS TWO SUNS CANNOT PEACEFULLY COEXIST, THE SAME GOES FOR TRIBES ON THE STEPPE. THE MONGOLS AND KEREITS WILL INDEED CROSS SWORDS ONE DAY.

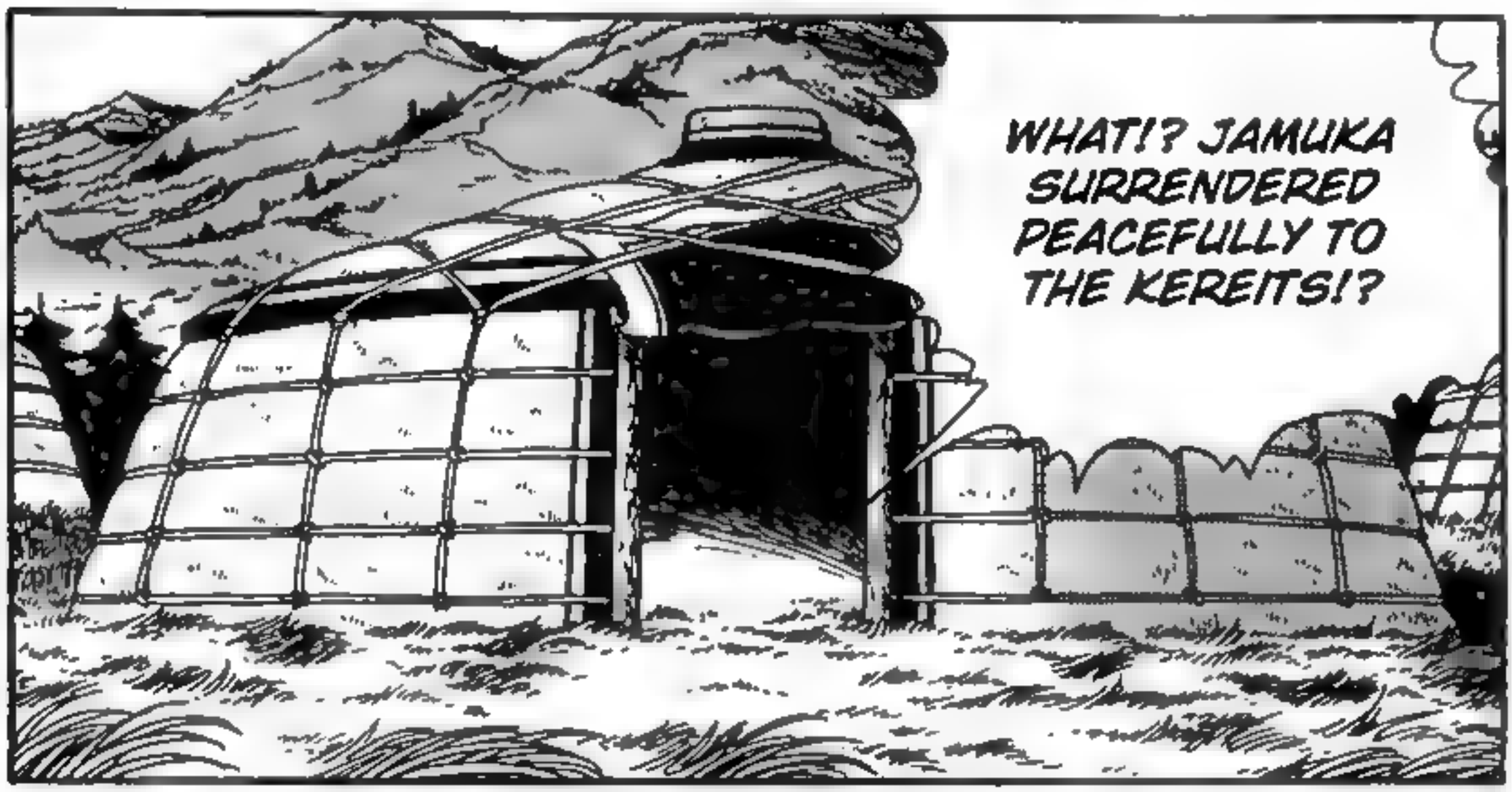
YES, I DO NOT WISH TO BECOME A SLAVE OF THAT UPSTART BRAT.

SO YOU WILL SIDE WITH WITH US, CORRECT?

I AM GRATEFUL.

VERY WELL. I SHALL PUT IN A GOOD WORD FOR YOU TO MY FATHER AND SEE TO IT THAT OUR DIFFERENCES ARE RESOLVED.


MONGOL
CAMPS


WHAT!? JAMUKA SURRENDERED PEACEFULLY TO THE KEREITS!?

AH, SO HE WARMED UP TO SENGGUM?

YES, HE MANAGED TO GET SENGGUM TO SUPPORT HIM.

AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?

BROTHER, JAMUKA MUST HAVE MADE THIS DECISION, KNOWING THAT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE SENGGUM TAKES OVER TOGHRUL'S PLACE AS THE KEREIT LEADER.

NO, JAMUKA DOES NOT HARBOUR SUCH PETTY GOALS.

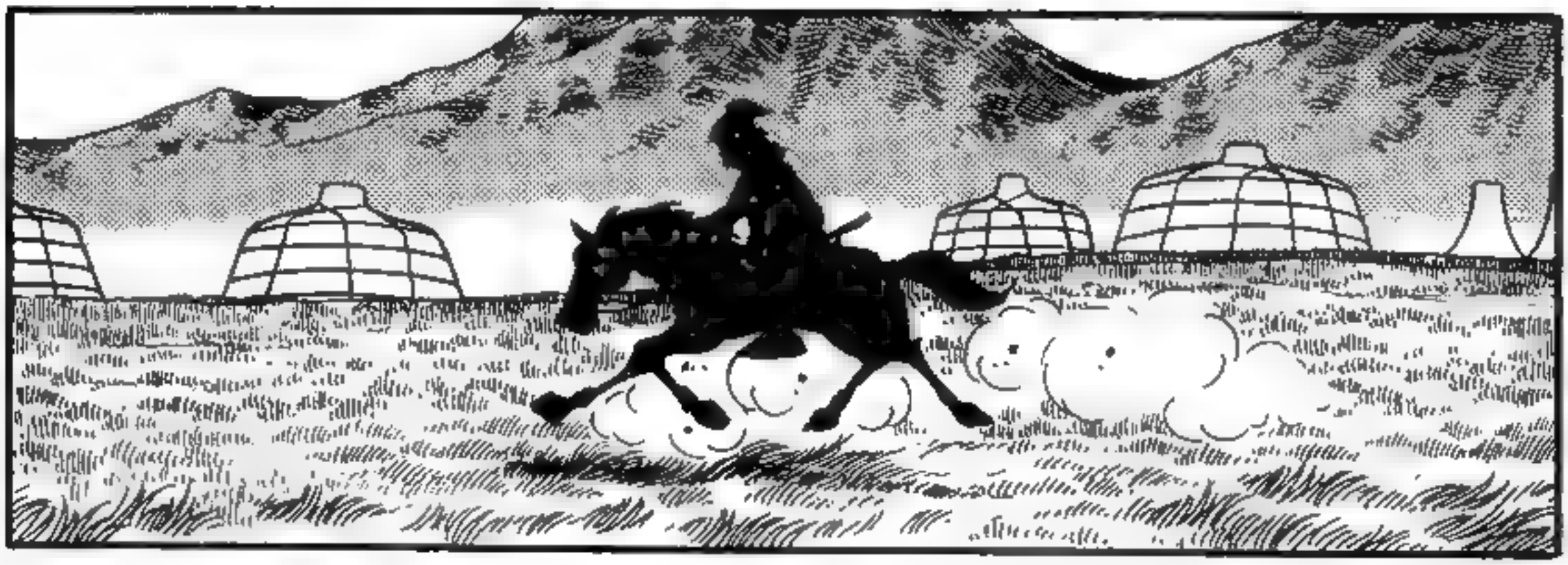
HE'S CLEARLY TRYING TO ESTABLISH A SOLID POSITION FOR HIMSELF AS SENGGUM'S RIGHT-HAND MAN.

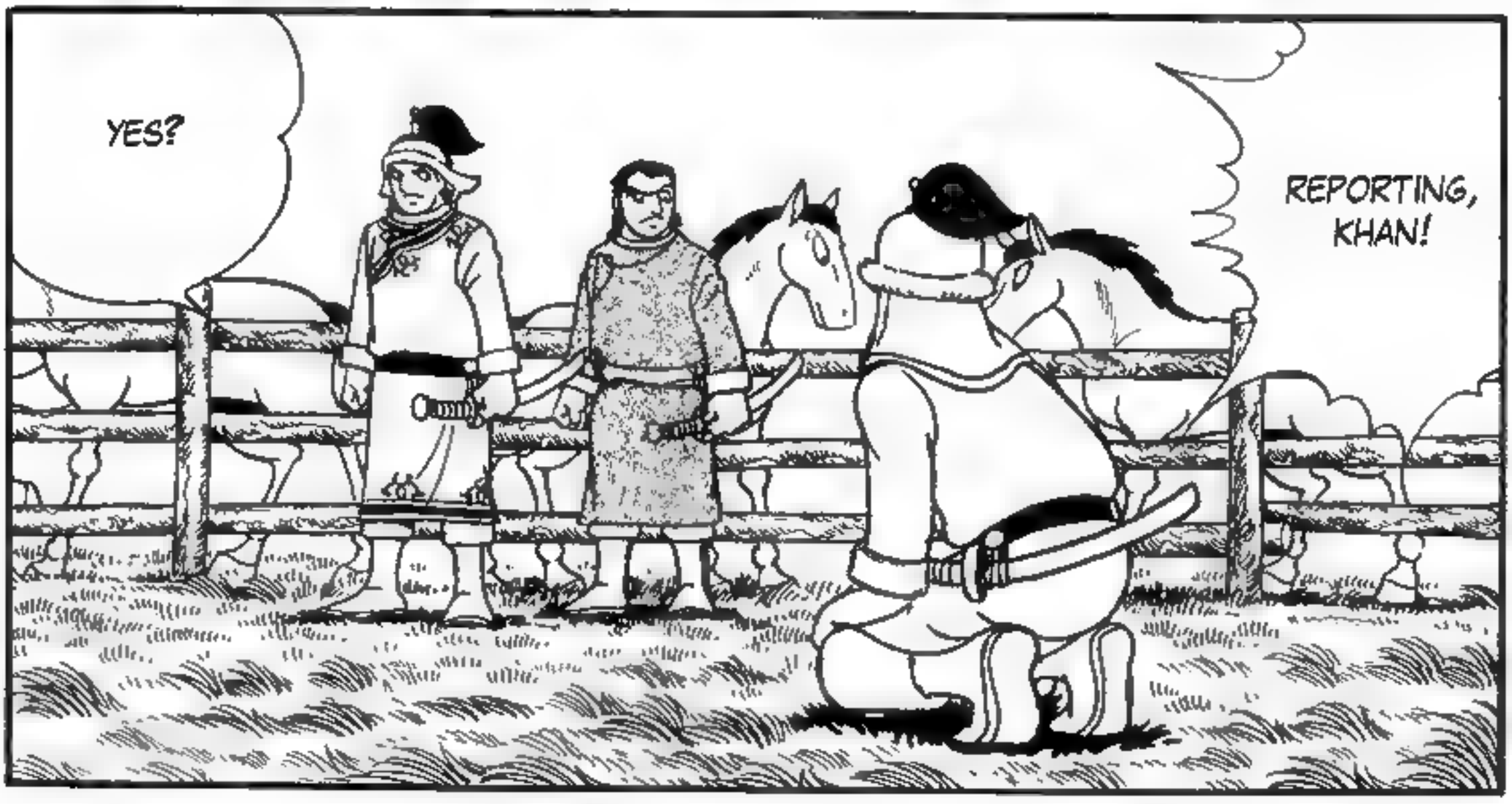
HE IS SIDING WITH THE KEREITS SO THAT THEIR COMBINED FORCES CAN BEAT US, LEAVING THE KEREITS AS THE SOLE RULER OF THE STEPPE.

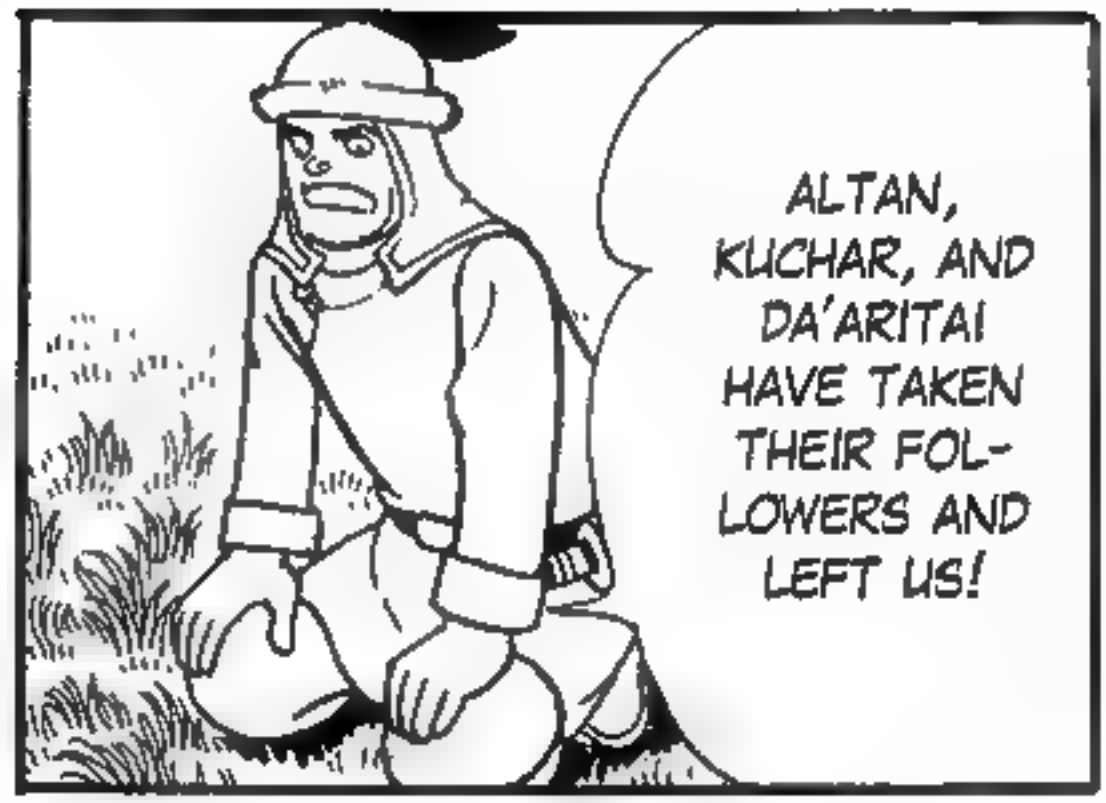
THEN WHAT CAN WE DO, BROTHER?

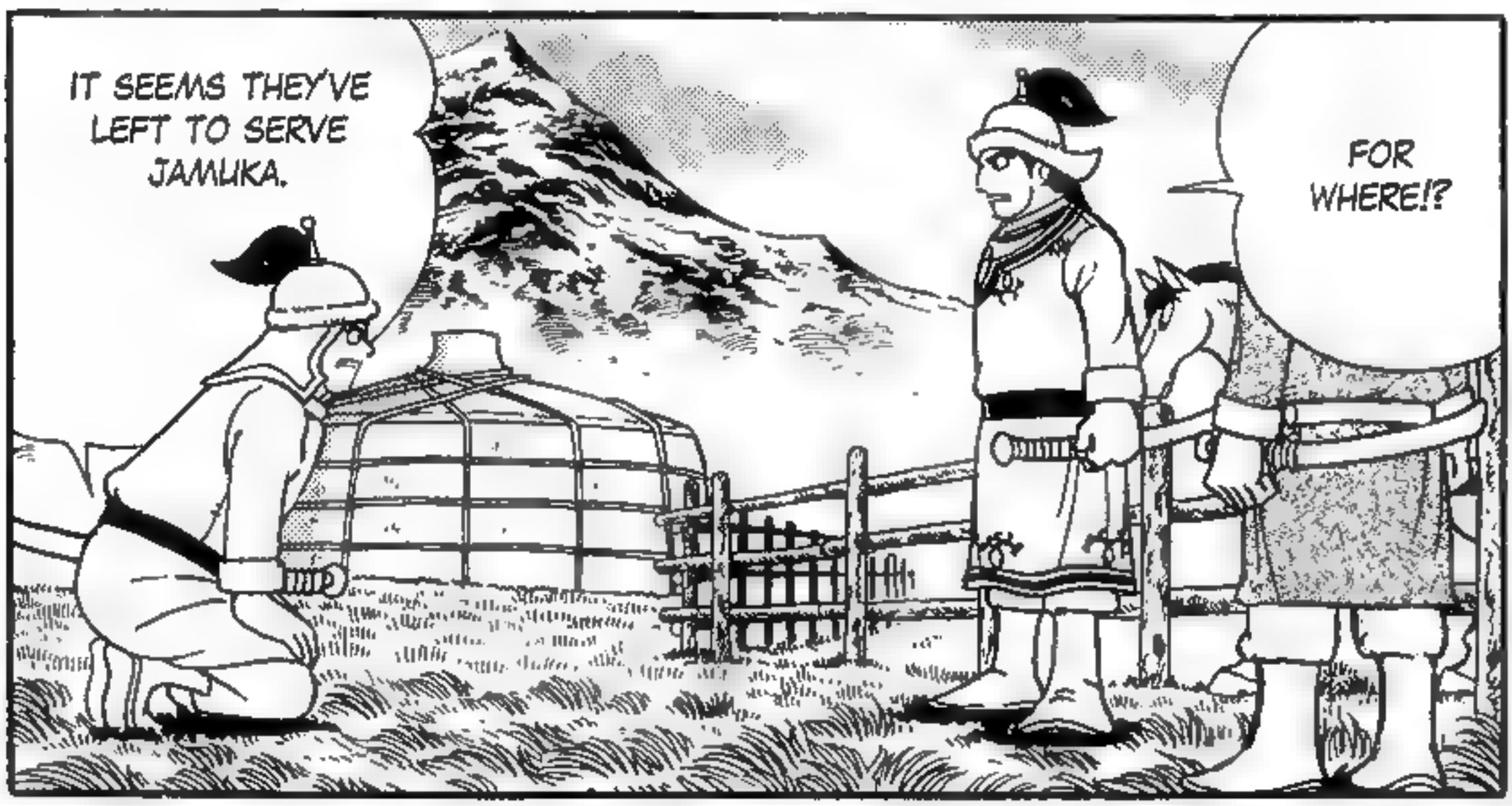
BUT SENGGUM LACKS THE GUILE TO PROTECT HIS THRONE. JAMUKA WILL BIDE HIS TIME AND SOONER OR LATER, HE WILL DEPOSE SENGGUM TO BECOME THE TRUE LORD OF THE STEPPE. THAT IS JAMUKA'S TRUE PURPOSE.

WE SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS TOGHRUL REMAINS IN CHARGE, BUT WE MUST BE WARY OF THE KEREITS FROM NOW ON.




YES?
REPORTING, KHAN!


ALTAN, KUCHAR, AND DA'ARITAI HAVE TAKEN THEIR FOL-LOWERS AND LEFT US!


IT SEEMS THEY'VE LEFT TO SERVE JAMUKA.
FOR WHERE!?

ALTAN AND KUCHAR ORIGINALLY CAME TO ME FROM JAMUKA, COM-PLAINING THAT JAMUKA DID NOT GIVE THEM ENOUGH LOOT. THE RECENT INCIDENT OVER THE CONFISCATION OF THEIR LOOT MUST HAVE TRIGGERED THIS.

I SEE...

NOTHING. THE KIND OF MEN WHO WOULD ABANDON ME OVER MATERIAL GAINS ARE THE ONES WHO MIGHT STAB ME IN THE BACK AT ANY TIME. I CAN REST EASIER WITH LESS OF THEIR ILK AROUND ME.

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

BUT IT SEEMS THE INEVITABLE CLASH BETWEEN US AND THE KEREITS IS INCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER...

ONE YEAR LATER...

A MESSENGER FROM TOGHRUL CAME BEFORE TEMUCHIN.

INDEED I DID.

AFTER THE VICTORY AT KÖYITÄN, YOU PROMISED TO DEAL WITH THE NAIMANS AT A LATER TIME.

EXCELLENT. I HAVE BEEN PREPARING FOR A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NAIMANS AS WELL. THE MONGOLS TOO ARE READY FOR WAR.

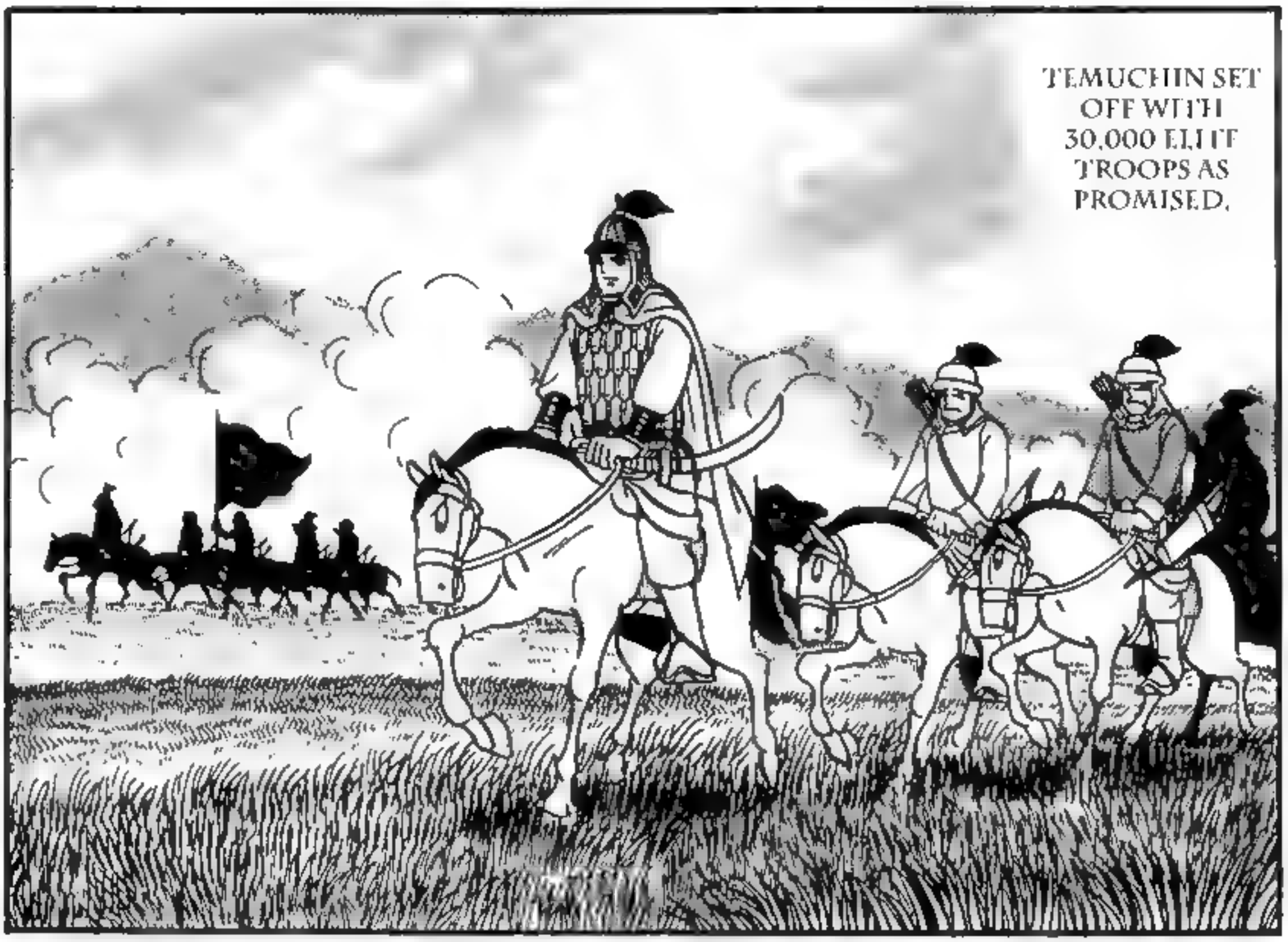
THERE IS DISSENSION AMONG THE NAIMANS AFTER THE DEATH OF INANCH-KHAN. THE TIME TO STRIKE HAS COME, AND WE KEREITS ARE READY FOR WAR.

VERY WELL.

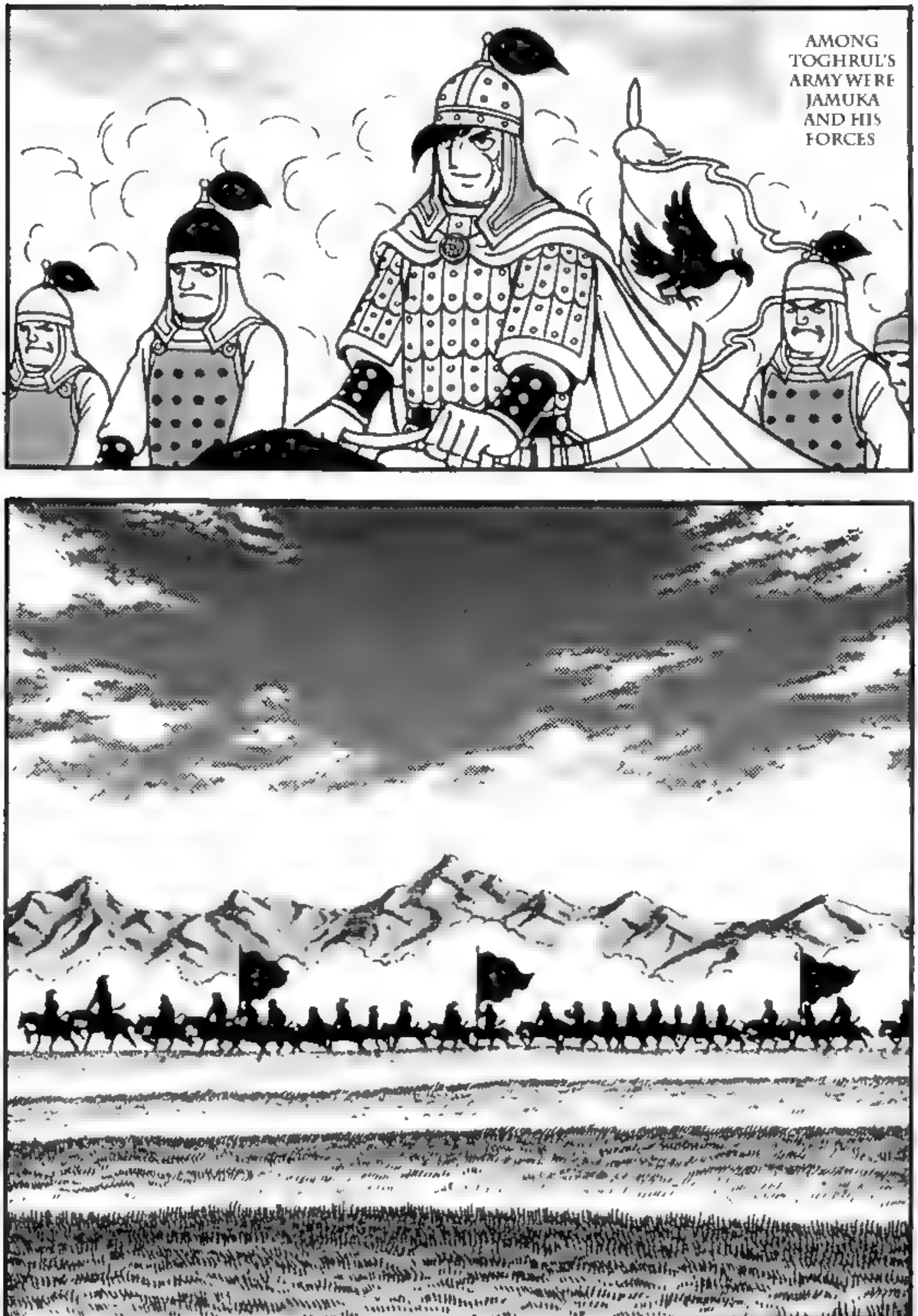
THE NAIMANS ARE STRONG. OUR TRIBES SHOULD EACH BRING A FORCE OF 30,000 MEN.

THANK YOU.

EXCELLENT, I WILL PASS ON YOUR WORD TO MY WANG KHAN.


TEMUCHIN SET OFF WITH 30,000 ELITE TROOPS AS PROMISED.

AS DID TOGHRUL.


AMONG TOGHRUL'S ARMY WERE JAMUKA AND HIS FORCES

THE NAIMANS ARE AN ENEMY TO US BOTH, AND MUST BE DEALT WITH.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME ON THIS CAMPAIGN.

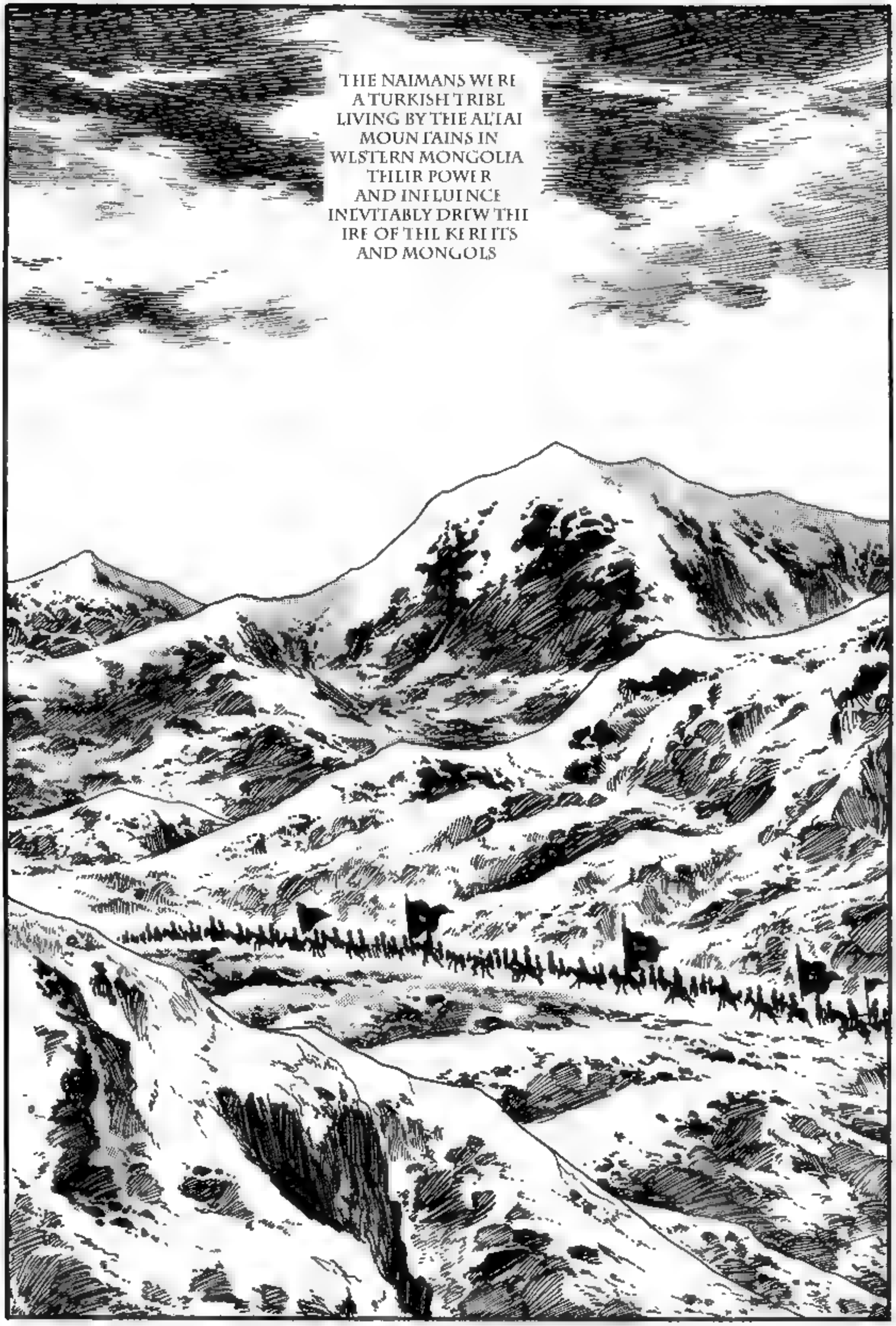
VERY WELL, I SHALL CROSS THE MOUNTAINS FROM THE LEFT.

OUR FIRST STEP OF ACTION IS TO CROSS THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS. WE SHOULD SPLIT OUR FORCES UP FOR THE NARROW MOUNTAIN PATHS.

UNDER-
STOOD.
GOOD, THEN I SHALL CROSS FROM THE LEFT PASS. OUR SUBJUGA-TION OF THE NAIMANS WILL START WITH THE GÜCHÜGÜD NAIMANS LED BY BUIRUK-KHAN.

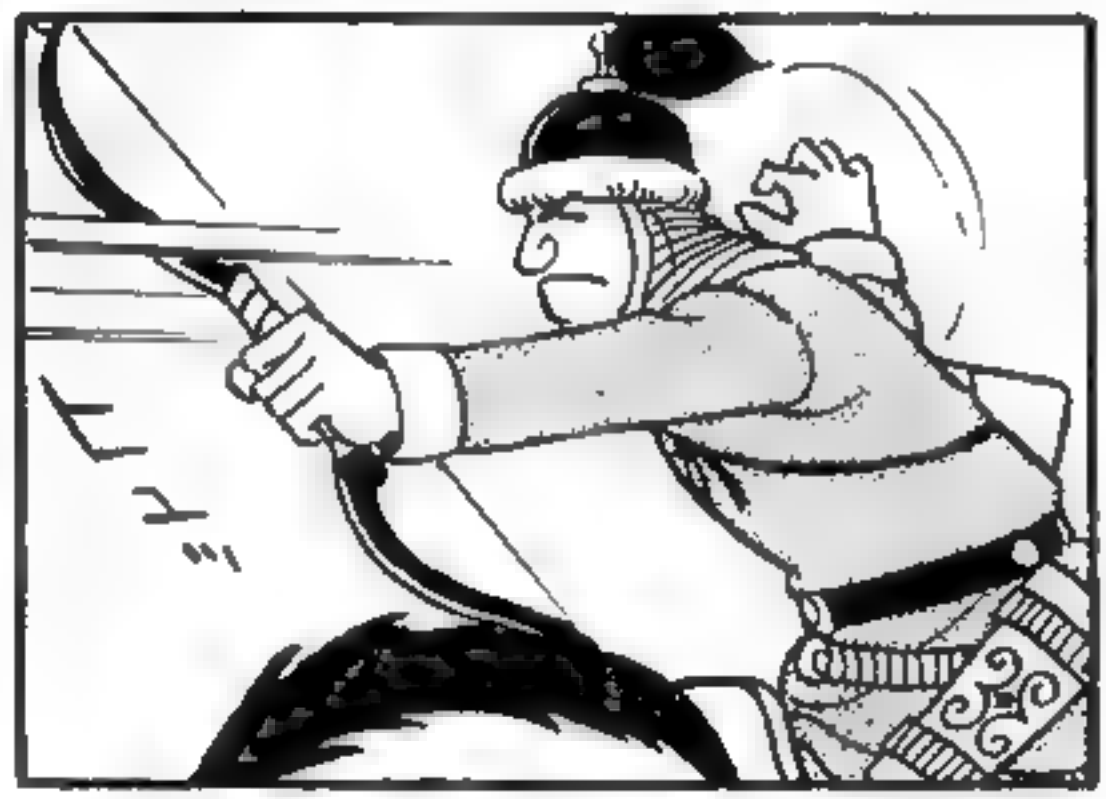
AND SO THE TWO ARMIES SPLIT OFF.

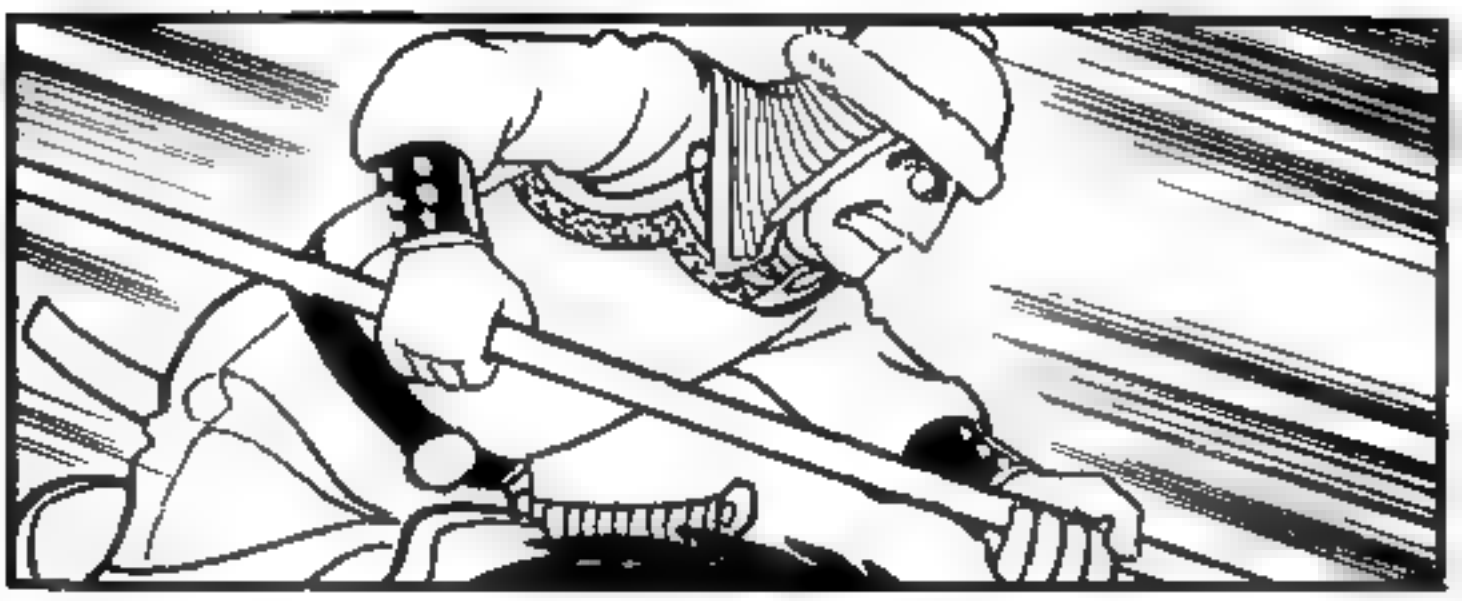
AND ENTERED THE ALTAI MOUN-TAINS

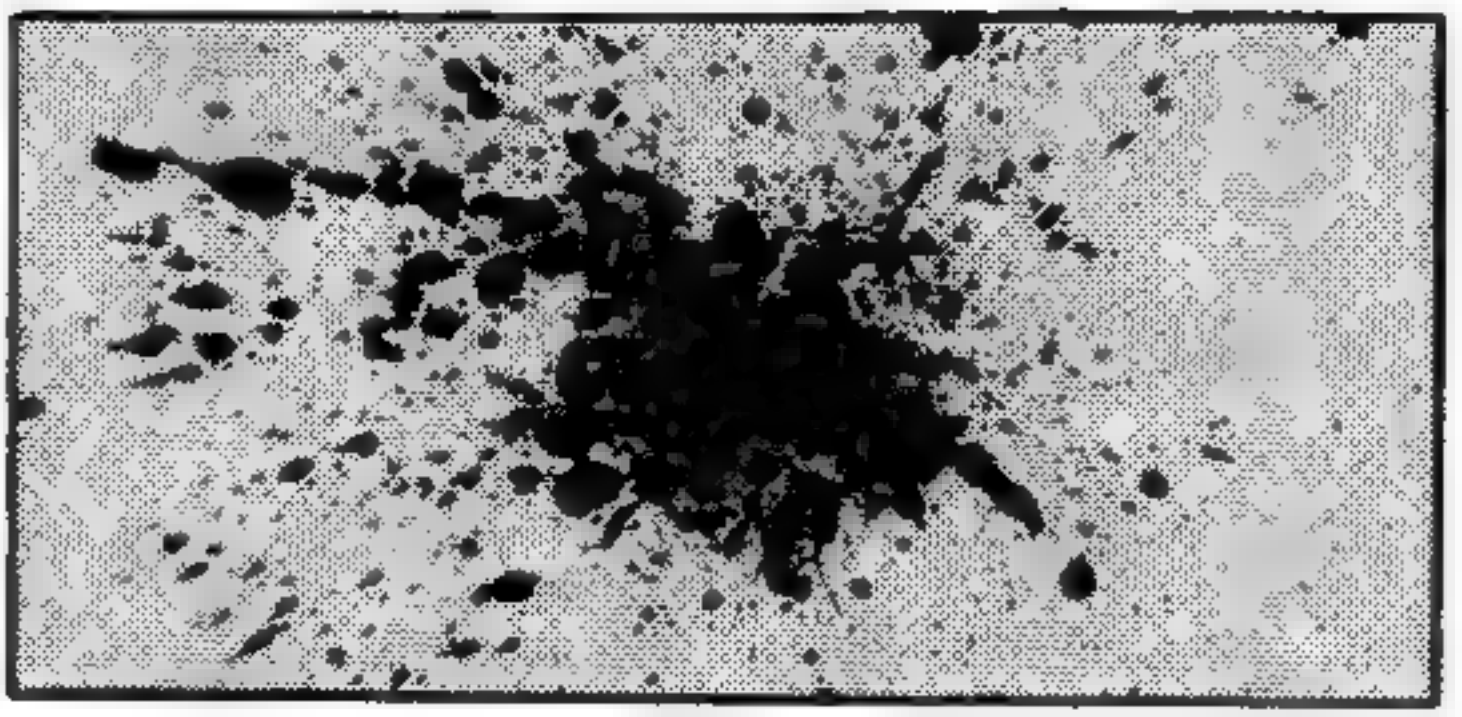

THE NAIMANS WERE
A TURKISH TRIBE
LIVING BY THE ALTAI
MOUNTAINS IN
WESTERN MONGOLIA
THEIR POWER
AND INFLUENCE
INEVITABLY DREW THE
IRE OF THE KERAITS
AND MONGOLS

AFTER CROSSING THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS,

THE TWO ARMIES PRESSED ON THE ATTACK.







THE INITIAL ATTACK CAUGHT THE NAIMANS BY SURPRISE

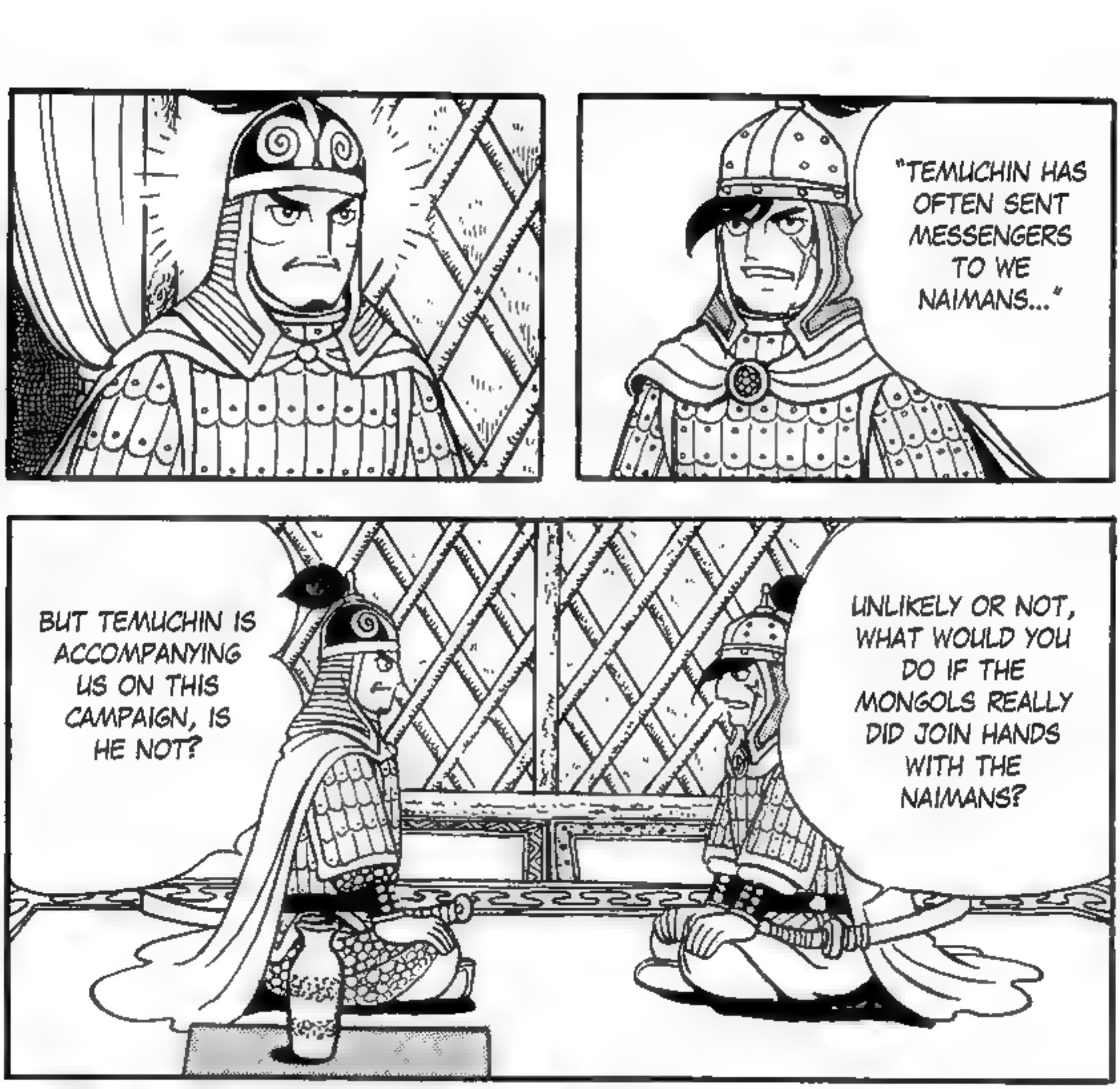
AND THE MONGOLS MET LITTLE RESISTANCE

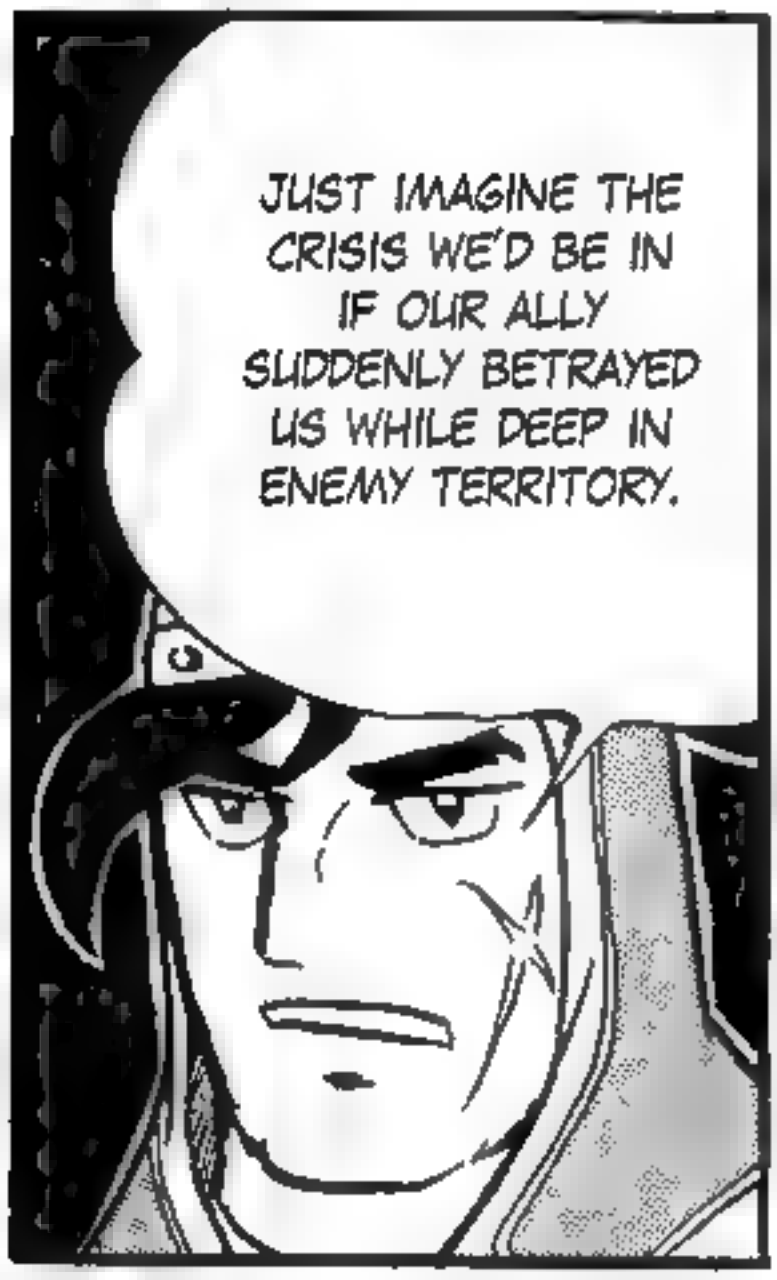
THAT IS WHAT I SUSPECT.

WHAT!? TEMUCHIN IS CONSPIRING WITH THE NAIMANS!?

I HAVE NO SOLID EVIDENCE, BUT BACK WHEN THE NAIMANS ASSISTED IN MY CONFLICT AGAINST TEMUCHIN, THE NAIMANS SAID TO ME:

"TEMUCHIN HAS OFTEN SENT MESSENGERS TO WE NAIMANS..."


BUT TEMUCHIN IS ACCOMPANYING US ON THIS CAMPAIGN, IS HE NOT?
UNLIKELY OR NOT, WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF THE MONGOLS REALLY DID JOIN HANDS WITH THE NAIMANS?


JUST IMAGINE THE CRISIS WE'D BE IN IF OUR ALLY SUDDENLY BETRAYED US WHILE DEEP IN ENEMY TERRITORY.

WHAT!?

TRUE, BUT WHAT IF THAT WASN'T TO HELP YOU DEFEAT THE NAIMANS? WHAT IF HE MEANT TO LURE YOU HERE...?

TRAPPED BETWEEN NAIMANS AND MONGOLS, WE WOULD BE QUICKLY WIPED OUT.
ALL I'M SAYING IS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS.
YES, BUT THAT'S ONLY IF TEMUCHIN REALLY HAS ALLIED WITH THE NAIMANS...
I PROPOSE WE SECRETLY WITHDRAW OUR FORCES.
AND WHAT PRECAUTIONS WOULD THAT BE?

THEN THE MONGOLS WILL TAKE A CRITICAL BLOW!

IF TEMUCHIN HAS JOINED HANDS WITH THE NAIMANS, THEN NOTHING WILL HAPPEN. BUT IF HE HAS NOT, THEN HE'LL BE THE ONE TO FIND HIMSELF DEEP IN UNFAMILIAR ENEMY LANDS, AND IF WE SIMPLY STAND BY AND OBSERVE THE SITUATION LONGER...

A BLOW FROM WHICH THEY WILL NOT RECOVER FROM...

ALLOWING THE KEREITS TO BRING THE MONGOLS UNDER ITS DOMINION WITHOUT MUCH BLOODSHED.

A CUNNING PLAN INDEED, JAMUKA.

THAT IS WHAT I FEAR, FATHER.

WHAT!? TEMUCHIN IS CONSPIRING WITH THE NAIMANS?

BY THE TIME WE HAVE SOLID PROOF, IT MAY BE FAR TOO LATE, FATHER!

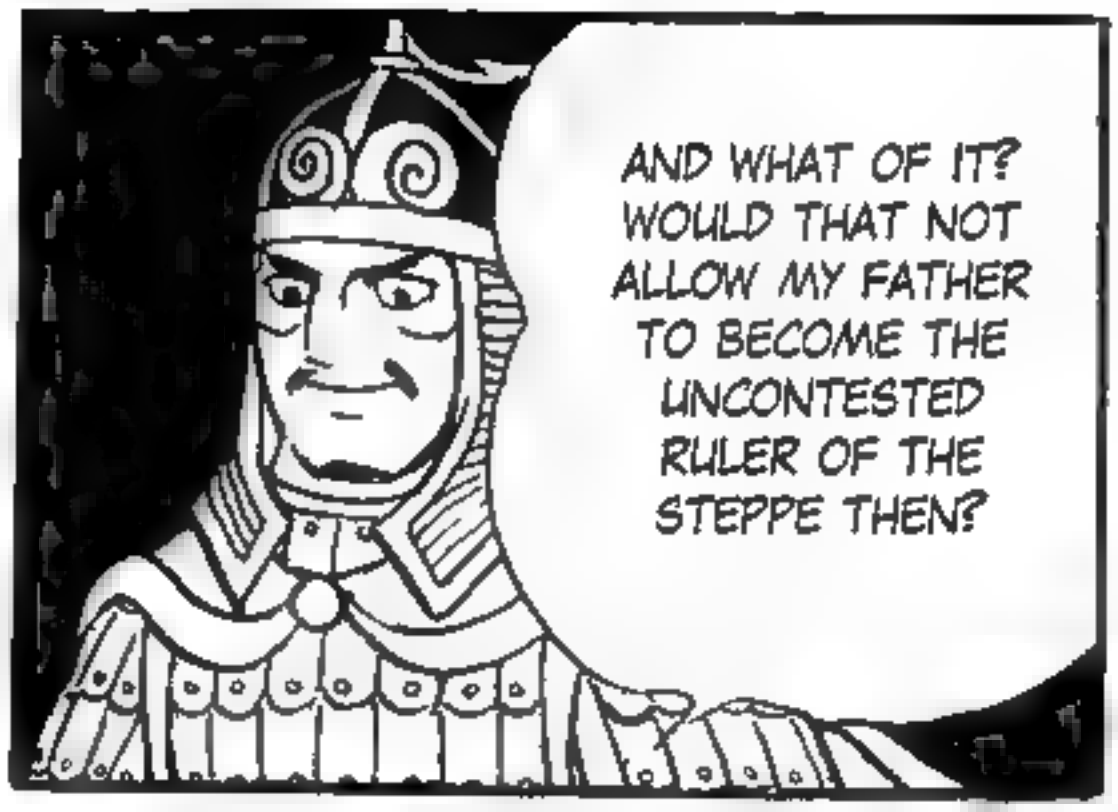
SO YOU HAVE NO PROOF THEN...?

SUCH AS...?

AT THE VERY LEAST, WE SHOULD TAKE CAUTIONARY MEASURES.

BUT IF WE DID THAT, THE MONGOLS WOULD FIND THEMSELVES SURROUNDED.

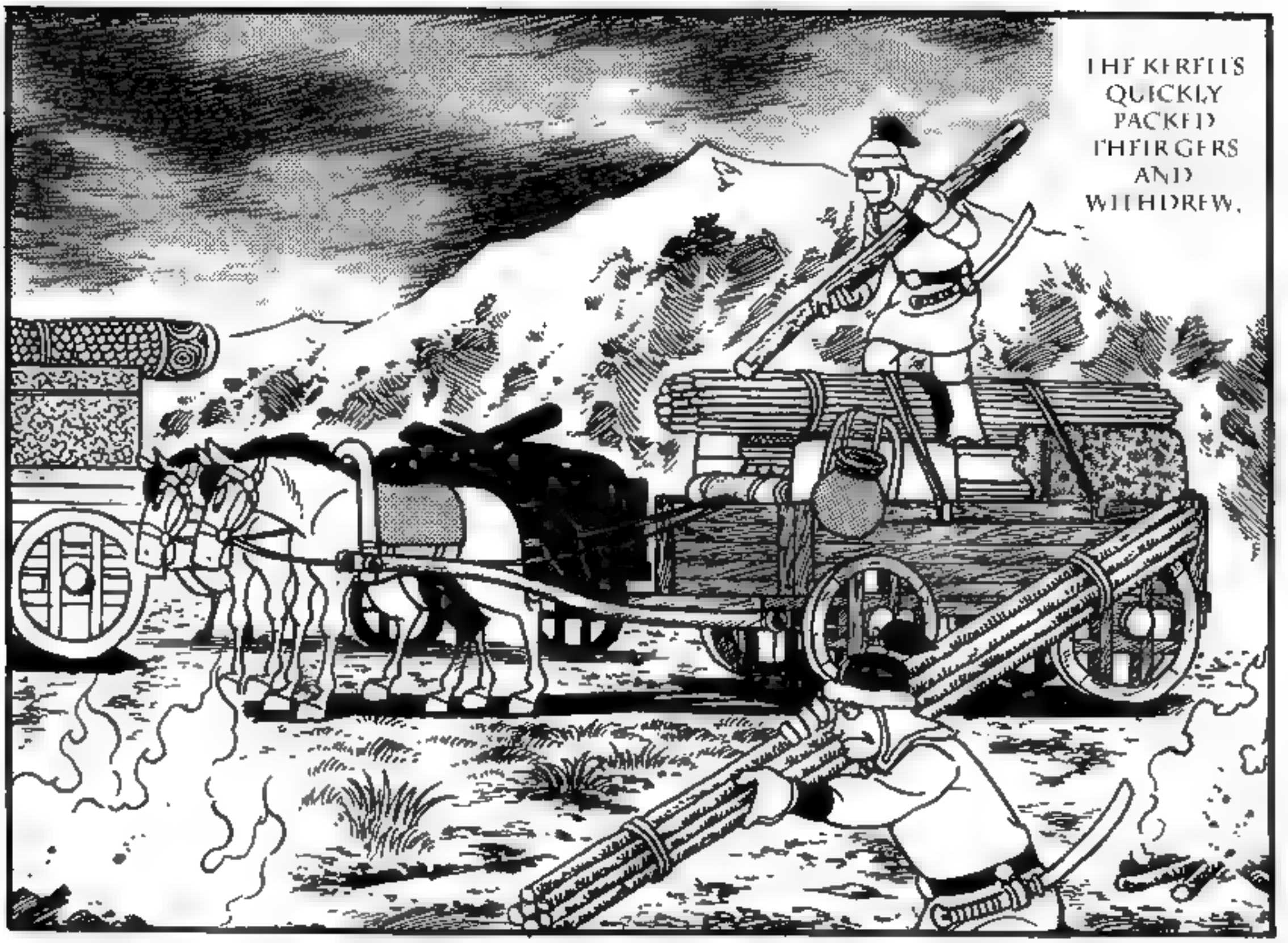
WE SECRETLY WITHDRAW OUR ARMY TO A SAFE LOCATION.


AND WHAT OF IT? WOULD THAT NOT ALLOW MY FATHER TO BECOME THE UNCONTESTED RULER OF THE STEPPE THEN?

IT SEEMS SOMEONE HAS LENT YOU HIS WISDOM...

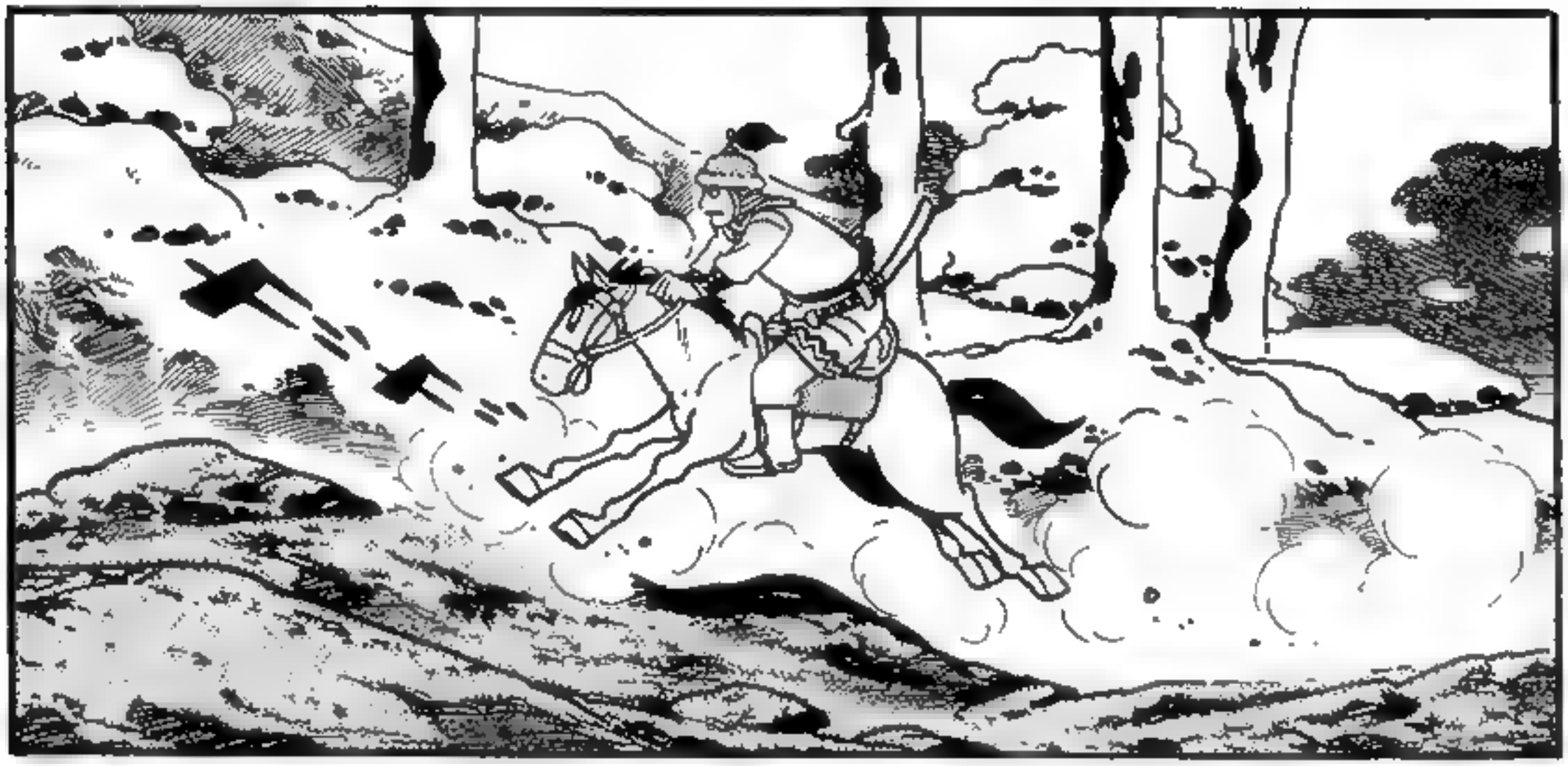
YES, FATHER.
LEAVE THE CAMPFIRES LIT OUTSIDE AND WITHDRAW OUR TROOPS.

NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A SOUND PLAN. BEING TOO CAUTIOUS NEVER HURTS.

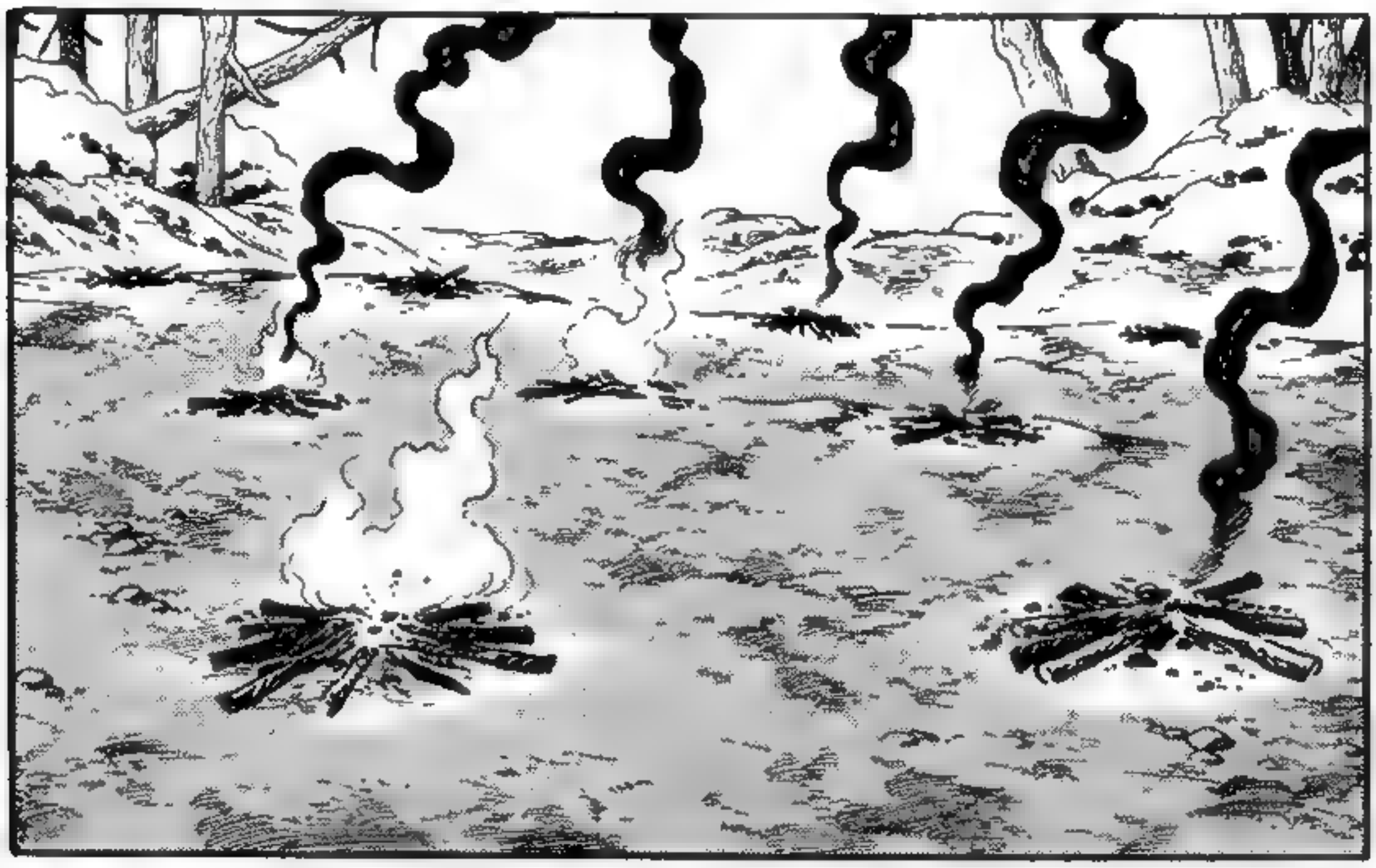

THE KERELS QUICKLY PACKED THEIR GERS AND WITHDREW,

LEAVING ONLY THEIR CAMPFIRES STILL BURNING

THAT'S ODD. TOGHRUL PROMISED TO ATTACK THE NAIMANS TOGETHER AT DAWN...
YES, KHAN.
SOMEONE GO TO THE KEREIT CAMPS AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!



AHHH!



IT'S COMPLETELY EMPTY! THE KEREITS ARE GONE...

THIS IS BAD...

NOT A SINGLE MAN NOR HIS SHADOW WAS LEFT.

THE KEREITS ARE GONE!?

THEY'VE LURED US INTO A TRAP SO THEY CAN TAKE OVER THE STEPPE FOR THEMSELVES!

THAT'S RIGHT!

THIS IS A CLEAR SIGN OF BETRAYAL!

CALM DOWN!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BICKER OR PANIC! WE MUST PACK OUR GERS AND WITHDRAW BEFORE THE NAIMANS COUNTER-ATTACK!

MN...
BROTHER, WE CAN NO LONGER COOPERATE WITH THE KEREITS.
TWO SUNS CANNOT COEXIST IN ONE SKY.
MUST YESTERDAY'S FRIEND BE TODAY'S ENEMY...?

第7章

Father -Son Anda

SEEING BOTH TEMUCHIN AND TOGHRUL'S ARMIES WITHDRAW, THE NAIMANS BEGAN THEIR COUNTER-OFFENSIVE.

LEAVING ASIDE THE MONGOLS, THE NAIMANS CHOSE TO PURSUE THE WITHDRAWING KERFIT FORCES

THE RETREATING KEREIT ARMY WAS CAUGHT COMPLETELY OFF-GUARD AND THROWN INTO A PANIC

TOGHRUL WAS TRAPPED IN A DESPER-ATE SITUA-TION NOW.

WHAT IS IT!?

WANG KHAN!

SEND REINFORCE-MENTS!?

YOUR SON'S CAMP HAS BEEN SURROUNDED BY THE ENEMIES! HE URGENTLY REQUESTS YOU SEND REINFORCEMENTS!

YES, KHAN.

MY SITUATION HERE IS TOO DESPERATE TO LEND HIM TROOPS! TELL HIM HE'LL HAVE TO HOLD OUT WITH WHATEVER TROOPS HE HAS SOMEHOW!

AT THIS RATE, WE'LL ALL BE ANNHILATED...

YES?

YOU THERE!

YES, KHAN!
TELL TEMUCHIN MY SITUATION IS DIRE AND I URGENTLY REQUIRE HIS MILITARY AID!

YES, MY KHAN URGENTLY ASKS YOU TO SAVE HIS SON AND TRIBE...
THE NAIMANS HAVE TAKEN YOU BY SURPRISE?

AS YOU WISH...

FINE, I WILL DECIDE WHETHER TO SEND AID AFTER DISCUSSING WITH MY FOLLOWERS. NOW EXCUSE YOURSELF.

HM...

BROTHER, DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING SENDING AID? THE KEREITS ARE THE ONES WHO BETRAYED US!

WE SHOULD USE THIS CHANCE TO DISGUISE OUR FORCES AS REINFORCEMENTS AND KILL TOGHRUL INSTEAD.!

THAT'S RIGHT. HAD THE NAIMANS PURSUED US, IT COULD HAVE BEEN US FACING ANNIHILATION RIGHT NOW.

I AGREE WITH KASAR'S PROPOSAL.

OF COURSE! TOGHRUL IS NO ALLY OF OURS ANYMORE.

SO YOU THREE ARE ALL IN AGREEMENT THAT WE SHOULD LET TOGHRUL DIE?

?

HM?

I'M ACTUALLY THINKING OF SENDING AID THIS TIME.

I WISH TO REPAY THAT HEAVY DEBT BY AT LEAST SAVING HIM THIS ONE TIME.

WHEN THE MERKITS STOLE MY WIFE BÖRTE, IT WAS TOGHRUL KHAN WHO USED HIS ARMY TO NOT ONLY GET HER BACK TO MY ARMS, BUT PUT OUR POOR TRIBE BACK UP ON ITS FEET. I OWE MUCH OF MY POSITION TODAY TO HIM.

IF SUCH A TIME COMES, THEN SO BE IT. I WILL NOT HESITATE TO PUT HIM TO THE SWORD AT THAT TIME.

BUT WHAT IF HE BETRAYS US AGAIN?

OF COURSE. THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO BRING STABILITY TO THE STEPPE.

DO YOU NOT WISH TO BECOME THE SUPREME KHAN OF THE STEPPE, BROTHER?

BUT WE ALL HAVE OUR OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS. JAMUKA HAS HIS WAY, TOGHRUL HAS ANOTHER, AND I OF COURSE, HAVE MY OWN PREFERABLE APPROACH TO BECOMING THE SUPREME KHAN.

IN ANY CASE, I HAVE DECIDED. WE WILL SEND REINFORCE-MENTS.
OUR KHAN HAS HIS REASONS. OUR DUTY IS SIMPLY TO OBEY AS HIS FOLLOWERS.
I CAN'T COMPREHEND WHAT OUR KHAN IS THINKING. HELPING A MAN WHO BETRAYED US? NO ONE COULD FAULT US FOR LEAVING THE KEREITS TO THEIR DOOM AFTER THEY ABANDONED US FIRST. HE'S LETTING A GOLDEN CHANCE SLIP THROUGH HIS FINGERS...

THE MONGOLS QUICKLY RUSHED TO THE KEREITS' AID.

GAHH!

AHHH!

MESSENGERS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT REPEATEDLY, SIR!

WE'LL BE ANNHILATED AT THIS RATE! TELL MY FATHER HE MUST SEND US REINFORCEMENTS!

I'M AFRAID OUR KHAN IS ALSO IN A DESPERATE SITUATION AND CANNOT SPARE ANY TROOPS, SIR!

THEN WHY HAS HE NOT DONE ANYTHING!? IS HE FINE LETTING HIS ONE AND ONLY SON DIE!?

AGHH!

AHH!

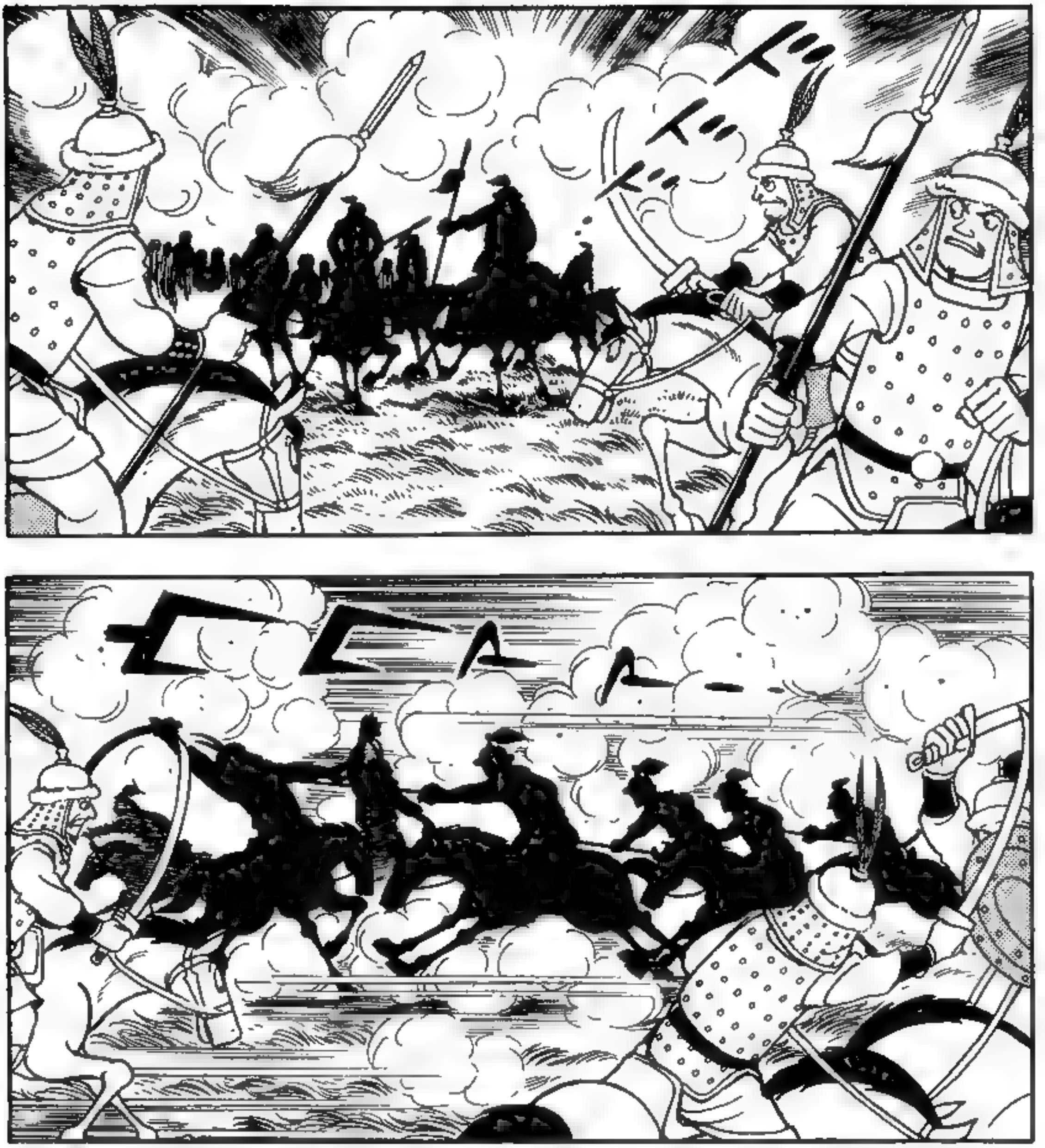
IS THIS THE END...?

CURSES!

COME THEN, NAIMAN SCUM! I'LL DIE FIGHTING 'TIL MY LAST BREATH!

TO TO TO

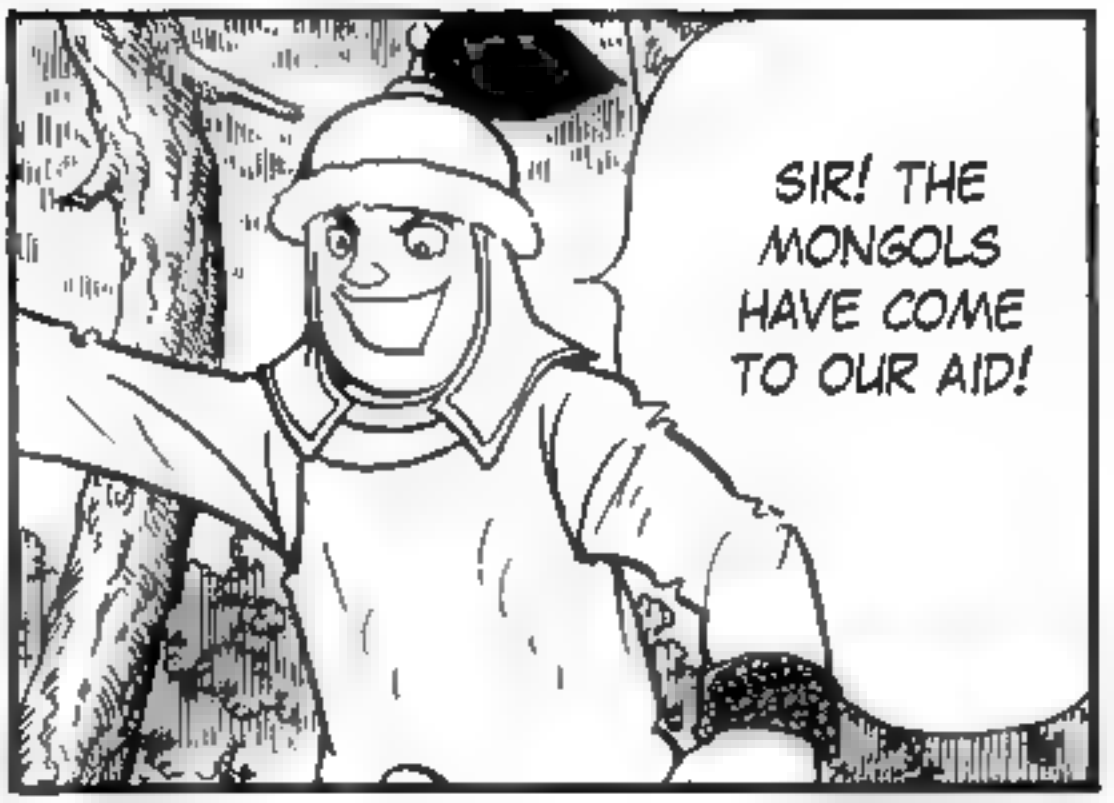
HM!?

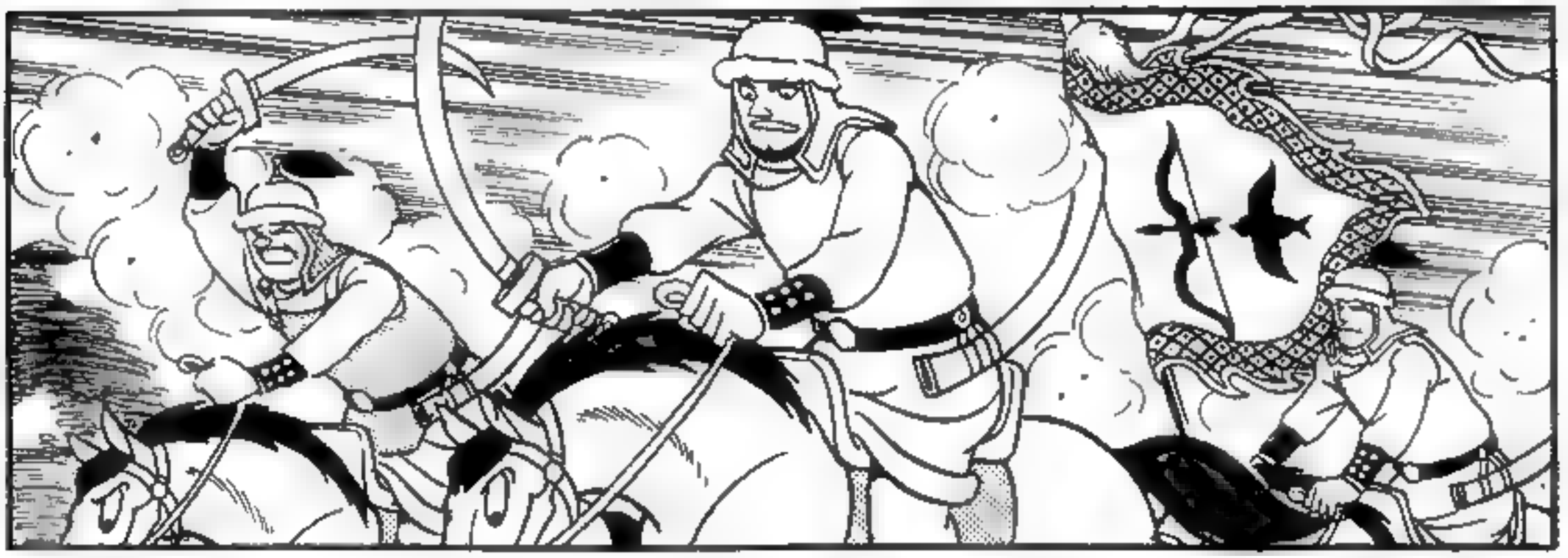


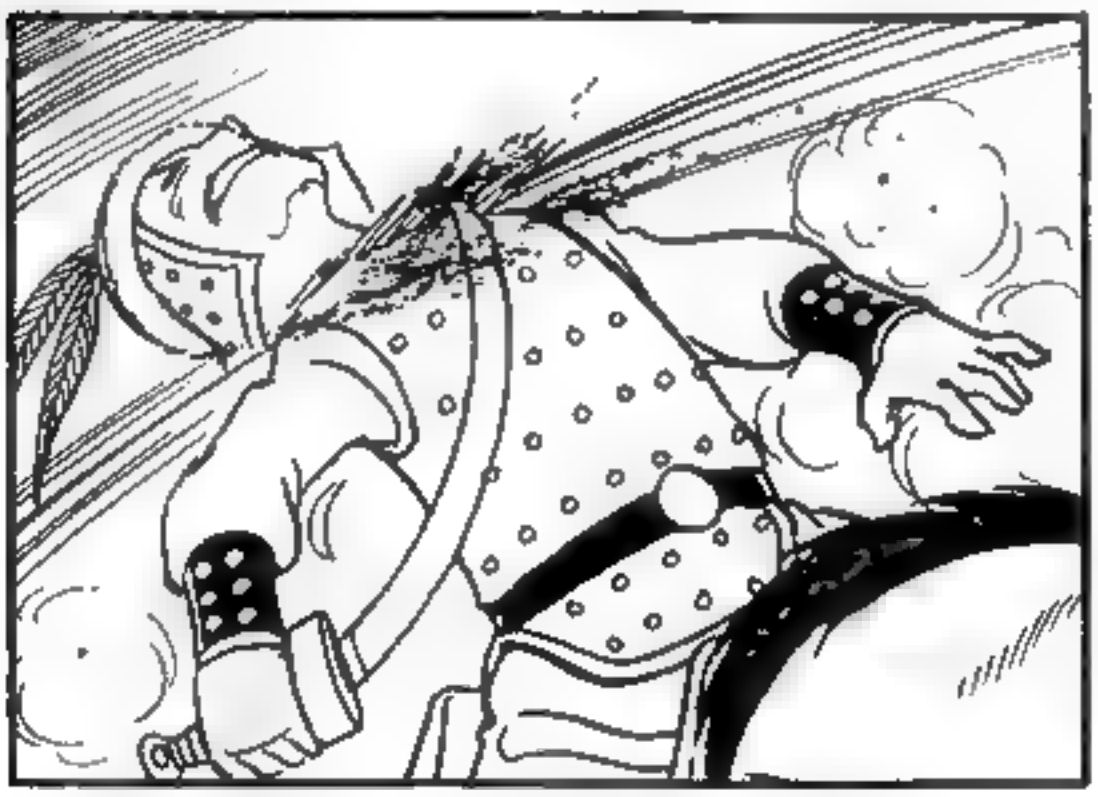
OHH!

LOOK! REINFORCE-MENTS HAVE FINALLY ARRIVED!

WHAT!?


SIR! THE MONGOLS HAVE COME TO OUR AID!





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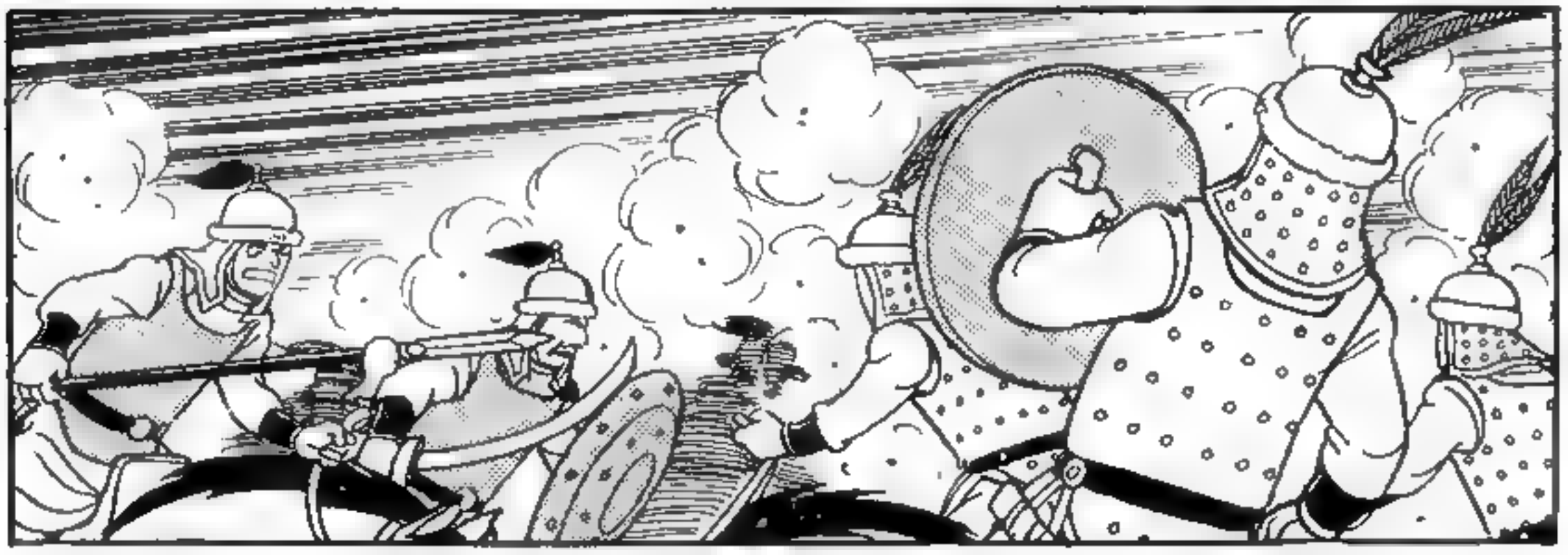


AS USUAL, EVEN AMONG THE DISCIPLINED VETERAN MONGOL TROOPS,
JEBE DISTIN-GUISHED HIMSLLF WITH HIS FEARSOME CHARGES,
FEAR APPEARED TO BE AN ALIEN CONCEPT FOR HIM.
NOT TO BE OUTDONE, BO'ORCHU,

KAŞAR,

CHIMBAI,

CHILA'UN AND THE OTHER BA'ATURS DISPLAYED THEIR PROWESS AS WELL.

RETREAT! RETREAT!

THE NAIMANS CALLED OFF THEIR ATTACK AND RETREATED WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES.

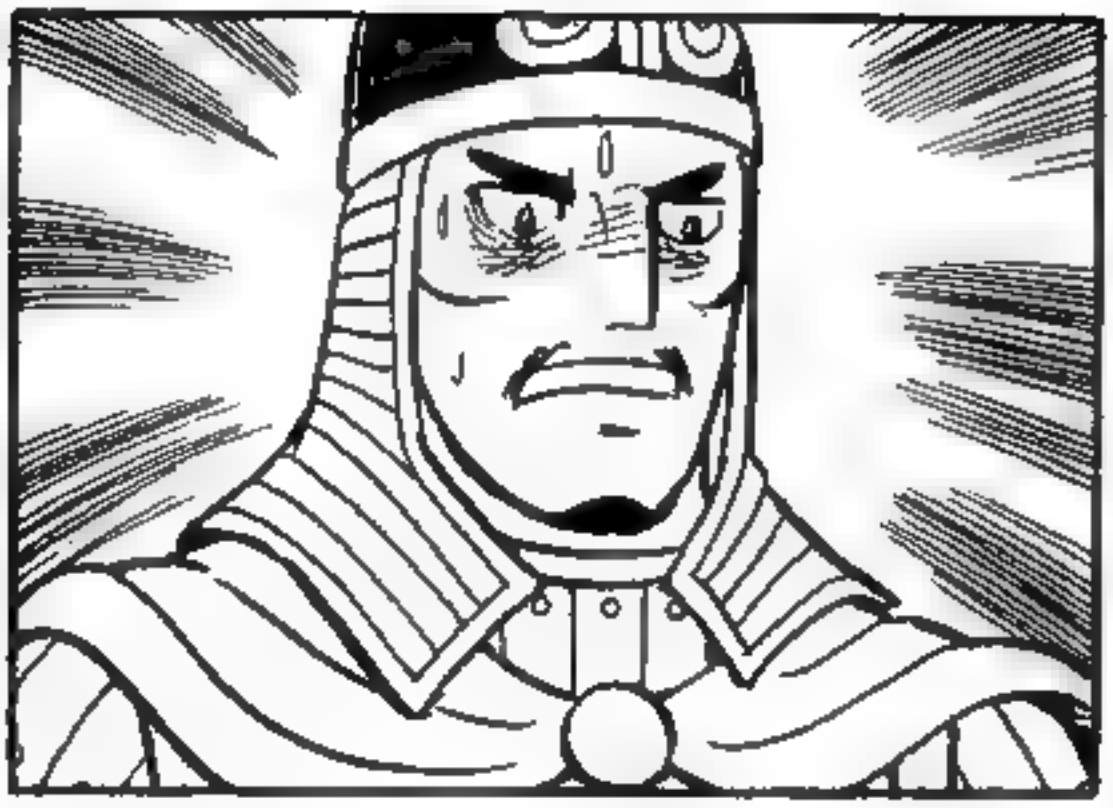
ARE YOU SAFE, MY DEAR SENGGUM?

THAT IS GOOD TO HEAR.

Y-YES, I'VE SUFFERED ONLY LIGHT WOUNDS...

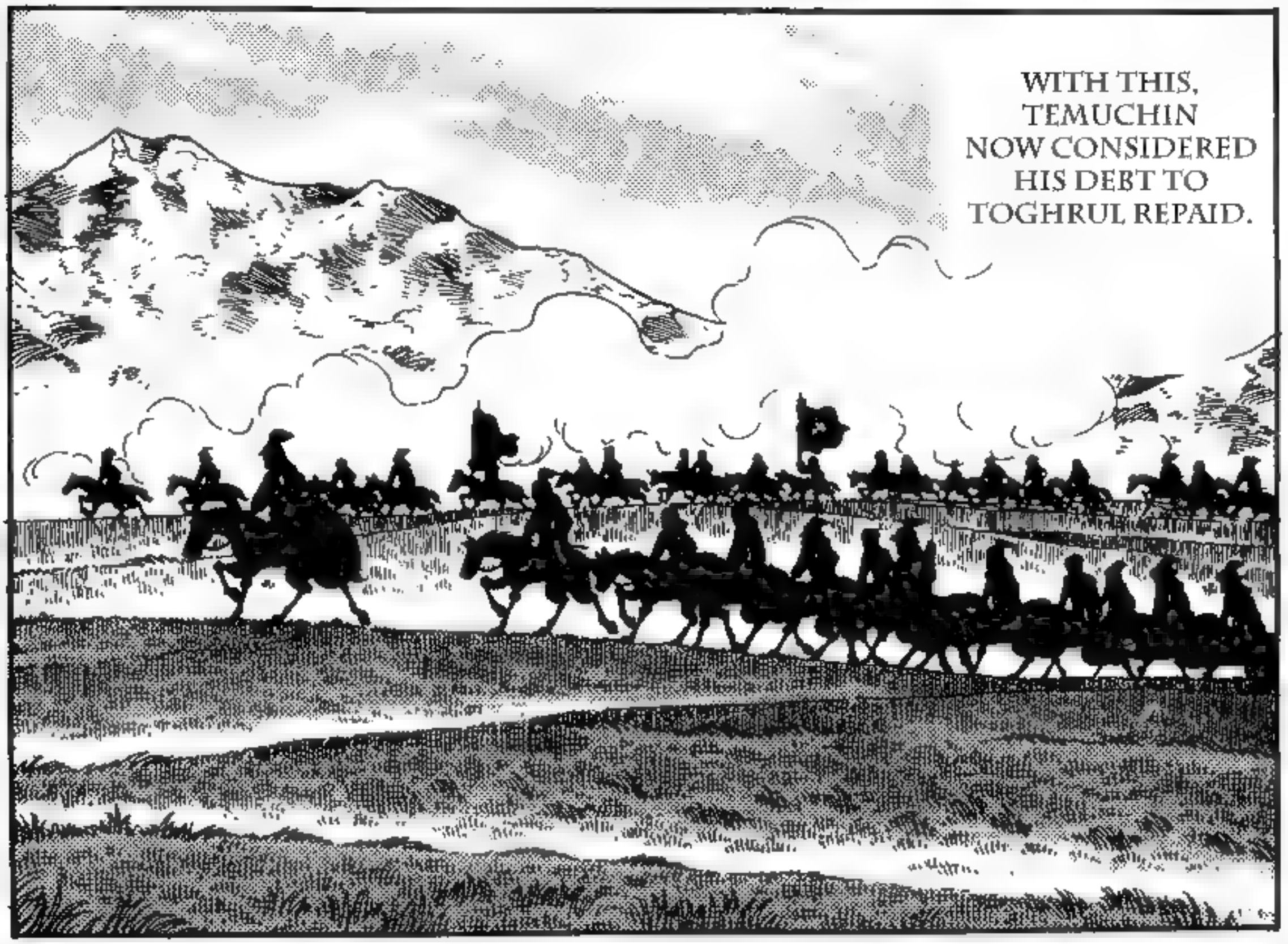
I-IT IS ALL THANKS TO YOU.

THE NAIMANS HAVE RETREATED. YOU MAY REST EASY NOW.



IT WAS WANG KHAN WHO ASKED ME TO SEND AID. WE MONGOLS DO NOT ABANDON FRIENDS TO THEIR DEATHS, YOU SEE.

YES, KHAN!
ALRIGHT THEN. LET US WITHDRAW, MEN.


WITH THIS, TEMUCHIN NOW CONSIDERED HIS DEBT TO TOGHRUL REPAID.

A LITTLE SORE BUT THEY ARE NOTHING SERIOUS, FATHER.
HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS, MY SON?

I AM NOW GOING TO MEET WITH TEMUCHIN...

IT IS GOOD THAT YOU WERE NOT HIT WITH A POISONED ARROW.

A FATHER-SON OATH!?

I AM THINKING OF OFFERING A FATHER-SON ANDA TO HIM.

YES, YOU SAW YOURSELF JUST HOW STRONG THE MONGOLS ARE. THEY ARE A DEPENDABLE TRIBE I WISH TO CEMENT A LONG-TERM ALLIANCE WITH.

THE SOONER THE BETTER. I'LL BE LEAVING NOW TO SEE HIM.

W-WHEN WILL YOU MEET HIM?

4 OR 5 MEN.

AND HOW MANY BODYGUARDS WILL YOU TAKE?

DANGEROUS?

4 OR 5!? THAT'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS, FATHER.

THAT "DANGEROUS" MAN JUST SAVED OUR ENTIRE TRIBE! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO YOURSELF SPEAK!?

TEMUCHIN WILL NOT HAVE FORGOTTEN IT WAS US WHO WITHDREW FIRST WITHOUT NOTICE. WE MUST NOT GIVE ANY REASON FOR HIM TO DOUBT OUR PEACEFUL AND HONEST INTENTIONS. 4 OR 5 BODYGUARDS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.

I'LL BE OFF THEN.

BUT LET ME SAY THIS BEFORE I GO. DO NOT LEND YOUR EAR TO HARE-BRAINED SCHEMES ANYMORE.

ACCOMPANIED BY ONLY 4 BODYGUARDS, TOGHRUL RODE FOR TEMUCHIN'S CAMPS

AFTER SEEING THE MONGOLS' PROWESS IN BATTLE, HE HAD QUICKLY CONCLUDED TEMUCHIN WAS BETTER A FRIEND THAN FOE.

YES, AND WITH ONLY FOUR BODYGUARDS.

TOGHRUL KHAN HAS COME?

YES.

I MUST GO GREET HIM THEN.

I'VE COME TO PERSONALLY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR YOUR AID THE OTHER DAY.

GOOD DAY, WANG KHAN. WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE SUDDENLY?

THANK YOU.

PLEASE, ENTER MY GER FIRST.

YES, THAT'S WANG KHAN FOR YOU, ALRIGHT.

HE'S GOT GUTS COMING WITH ONLY FOUR BODYGUARDS.

I ONLY DID WHAT WAS PROPER.

ALLOW ME TO SAY JUST HOW GRATEFUL I AM THAT YOU SENT REINFORCEMENTS THE OTHER DAY.

AH!

I HAVE ALSO COME TO PROPOSE A FATHER-SON ANDA BETWEEN YOU AND I.

I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS.

ALTHOUGH I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED YOU AS A SON, I WISH TO CEMENT OUR TIES BY MAKING AN OFFICIAL ANDA AND SWEARING BEFORE THE HEAVENS.

I SEE. VERY WELL.

IN ADDITION, I PROPOSE MY DAUGHTER, CHA'UR-BEKI, MARRY YOUR SON, JOCHI, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER, QOJIN-BEKI, MARRYING SENGGUM'S SON, TUSAQA.

YES, LET US PREPARE THE CERE-MONIES.

SO YOU AGREE TO IT ALL?

THE SOLDIERS QUICKLY PREPARED THE SEATS FOR THE ANDA CEREMONY.

YES.

LET US BEGIN.

237

WE SWEAR BEFORE THE HEAVENS, THAT BY EXCHANGING OUR BLOOD IN THESE DRINKS, WE SEAL OUR BLOOD-BOND AS ONE OF FATHER AND SON.

WE SWEAR BEFORE THE HEAVENS, THAT BY EXCHANGING OUR BLOOD IN THESE DRINKS, WE SEAL OUR BLOOD-BOND AS ONE OF FATHER AND SON.

AS MY BLOOD ENTERS TOGHRUL, HE IS NOW MY FATHER.

AS MY BLOOD ENTERS TEMUCHIN, HE IS NOW MY SON.

HOWEVER, HE HAD NO REASON TO REJECT TOGHRUL'S OFFER EITHER

AS WITH HIS PAST ANDA WITH JAMUKA, TEMUCHIN WAS WARY OF TAKING THIS OATH SERIOUSLY.

Trap

YES, AND YOUR SON TUSAQA WILL WED TEMUCHIN'S DAUGHTER QOJIN-BEKI IN TURN.

WHAT!? CHA'UR-BEKI WILL BE WED TO JOCHI!?

WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING FOR? MARRIAGE TIES ARE CUSTOMARY.

IS THE ANDA NOT ENOUGH!? WHY TIE OURSELVES WITH THESE MARRIAGES?

YOU OBJECT TO HIS HOUSE? TEMUCHIN DESCENDS FROM AN ARISTOCRATIC MONGOL TRIBE.

I SIMPLY FEEL THAT OUR HOUSES ARE BECOMING TIED *TOO* CLOSE...

TEMUCHIN'S FATHER YISUGEI WAS NO KHAN. HE WAS A MERE BA'ATUR OF THE MONGOLS, WHO ARE EVERY BIT INFERIOR TO OUR HOUSE WHO HAVE BEEN KHANS FOR GENERATIONS. JUST WHAT IS TEMUCHIN OR YISUGEI COMPARED TO YOU, THE WANG KHAN, THE MAN RECOGNIZED EVEN BY THE GREAT JIN EMPIRE! THE MONGOLS LACK OUR WEALTH, PRESTIGE, AND CULTURAL SOPHISTICATION!

TEMUCHIN IS FAR TOO STRONG TO HAVE AS OUR ENEMY, SENGGUM,

THAT IS NOT ALL! I HEAR TEMUCHIN'S SON, JOCHI, IS A MAN WITH AMBIGUOUS PARENTAGE! HOW CAN YOU NOT CONSIDER IT HUMILIATING TO GIVE YOUR DAUGHTER TO HIM!?

I...

WHY MUST YOU SPEAK SO WEAK-HEARTEDLY, FATHER?

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE WEDDING PROMISES HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE.

WE WERE ONLY IN DANGER BECAUSE THE NAIMANS HAD THE FORTUNE TO TAKE US BY SUPRISE! OUR TRUE STRENGTH IS FAR ABOVE THAT OF THE MONGOLS!

I AM AGAINST THIS! AS YOUR HEIR, I WILL NOT STAND TO BE TIED WITH THAT UPSTART!

THIS IS QUITE THE PREDICAMENT. PUSHING FORTH WITH THIS MARRIAGE MAY END UP TEARING MY FAMILY AND EVEN THE KEREITS APART...

FOR HE HAD WALKED A BLOODY PATH OVER THE CORPSES OF HIS BROTHERS AND RELATIVES TO BECOME THE KHAN AFTER HIS OWN FATHER S DEATH.
IT WAS ONLY TOO NATURAL FOR TOGHRUL TO BE DEEPLY WORRIED AT THE IDEA OF DISCORD IN HIS FAMILY,

AS TOGHRUL WITHDREW HIS ARMY BACK HOME, HIS MIND REMAINED PREOCCUPIED ON FINDING A SOLUTION

JAMUKA'S CAMPS

YES, SENGGUM FIRMLY OPPOSES MARRIAGE-TIES TO TEMUCHIN'S FAMILY.

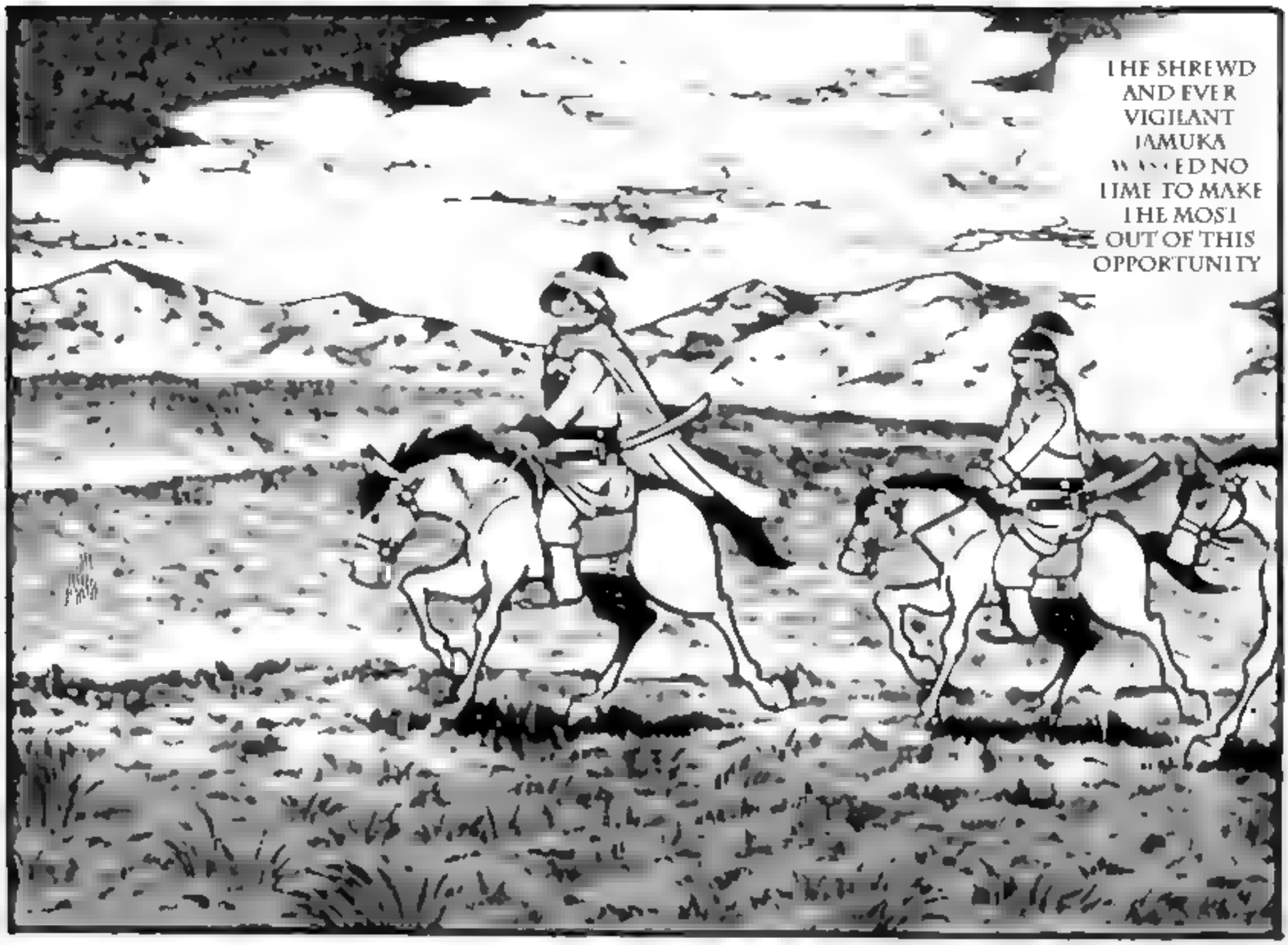
A SPLIT IN OPINIONS BETWEEN TOGHRUL AND SENGGUM?

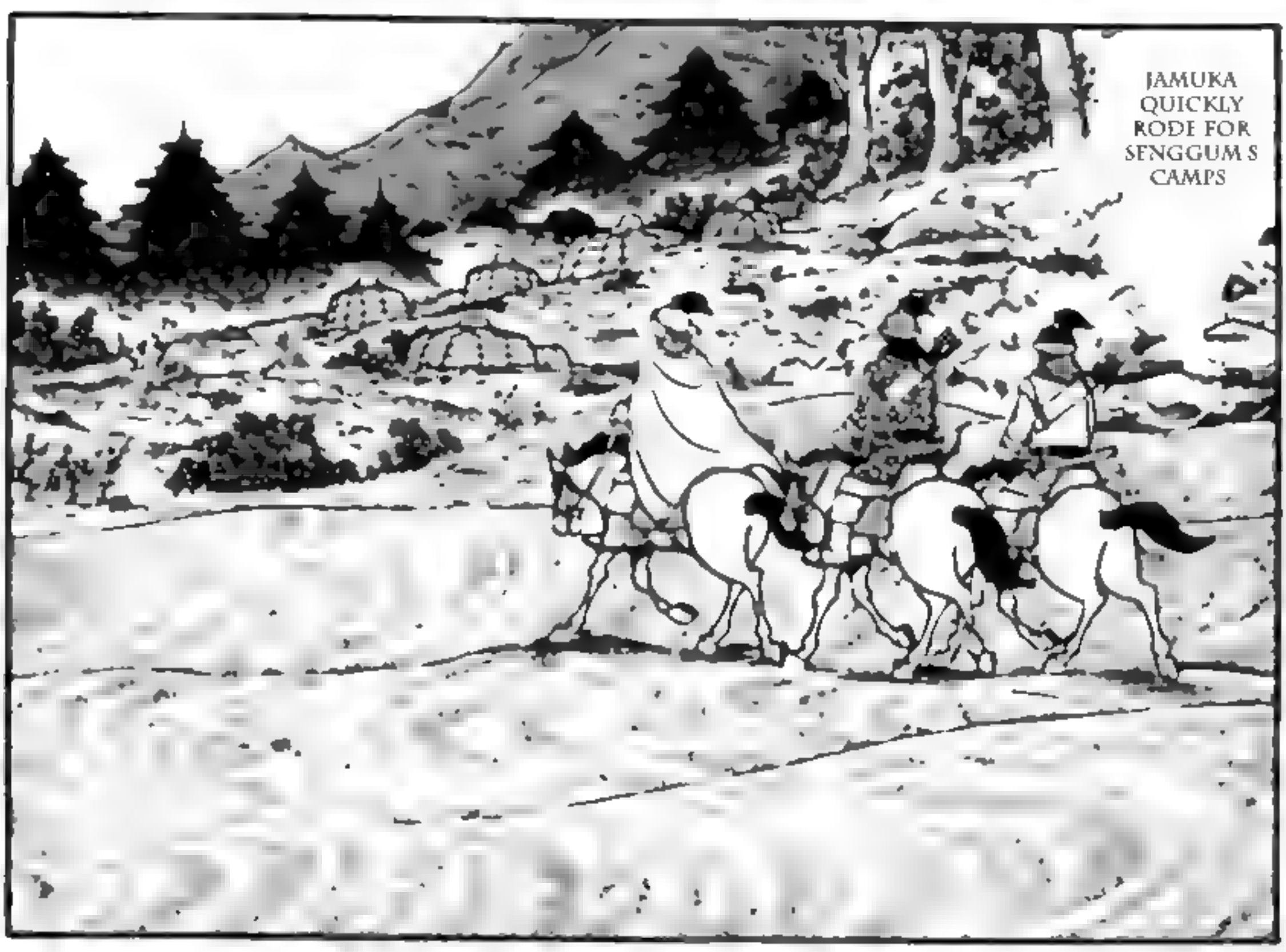
A FISSURE BETWEEN FATHER AND SON... HOW INTERESTING.

FOR WHAT PURPOSE, SIR?

I WILL GO MEET WITH SENGGUM.

ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? TO SET THE PLAN FOR TEMUCHIN'S DESTRUCTION IN MOTION.


THE SHREWD AND EVER VIGILANT JAMUKA WASTED NO TIME TO MAKE THE MOST OUT OF THIS OPPORTUNITY


JAMUKA QUICKLY RODE FOR SENGGUM'S CAMPS

I HEAR YOU AND YOUR FATHER ARE IN DISAGREEMENT OVER POTENTIAL MARRIAGE-TIES TO TEMUCHIN'S FAMILY.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

AS YOU SHOULD, OF COURSE.

YES, I OBJECT!

EXACTLY! HOW CAN I ALLOW MYSELF TO BE RELATED TO THAT UPSTART!?

THERE IS TOO BIG OF A GAP BETWEEN YOUR LINEAGES.

EVEN IF FATHER ALLOWS SUCH A THING, I WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE IT!

YES, AND THE MARRIAGES WOULD ONLY BENEFIT TEMUCHIN. HE WOULD BE ABLE TO USE HIS NEW TIES TO ORDER AROUND THE OTHER KEREIT CHIEFS AND EVEN INHERIT YOUR FATHER'S TITLE.

WE MUST NOT LET TEMUCHIN GAIN EVEN MORE POWER. THE TIME TO STRIKE HIM DOWN IS NOW.

REST ASSURED, YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT.

THAT IS FAR EASIER SAID THAN DONE, HOWEVER.

THE MONGOL TRIBAL CHIEFS ALTAN AND KUCHAR HAVE RECENTLY DEFECTED TO ME, INCREASING MY FORCES CONSIDERABLY. OUR COMBINED STRENGTH CAN FOIL TEMUCHIN'S GREED AS LONG AS WE STRIKE NOW.

I'M SURE WE CAN PERSUADE WANG KHAN AS LONG AS WE HAVE A SOUND STRATEGY.

BUT WITHOUT MY FATHER'S CONSENT, THE KEREIT ARMY WILL NOT FIGHT.

YES, WE'LL LURE TEMUCHIN TO A SHEEP-NECK FEAST TO CELEBRATE THE BETROTHALS.

AND DO YOU HAVE SUCH A STRATEGY?

*SHEEP-NECK FEAST (BU ULJAR) BETROTHAL FEAST, SO CALLED TO HOPE THAT THE MARRIAGE WOULD BE AS TOUGH AS A SHEEP'S NECK

SINCE TEMUCHIN WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BRING HIS ARMY ALONG TO A BETROTHAL FEAST, AS LONG AS WE CAN DEAL WITH HIS BODYGUARDS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO KILL HIM ON THE SPOT.

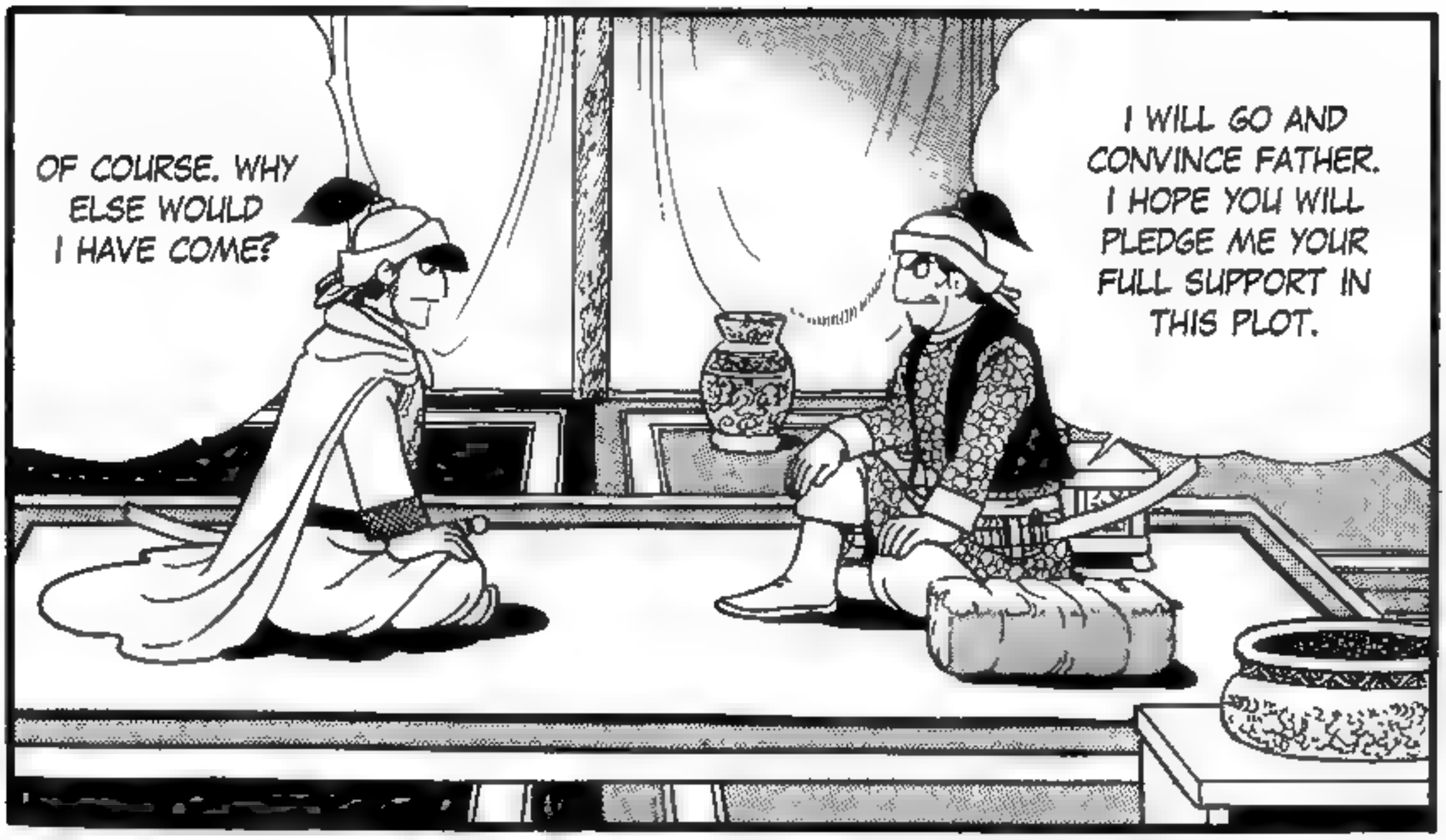
IT WILL.

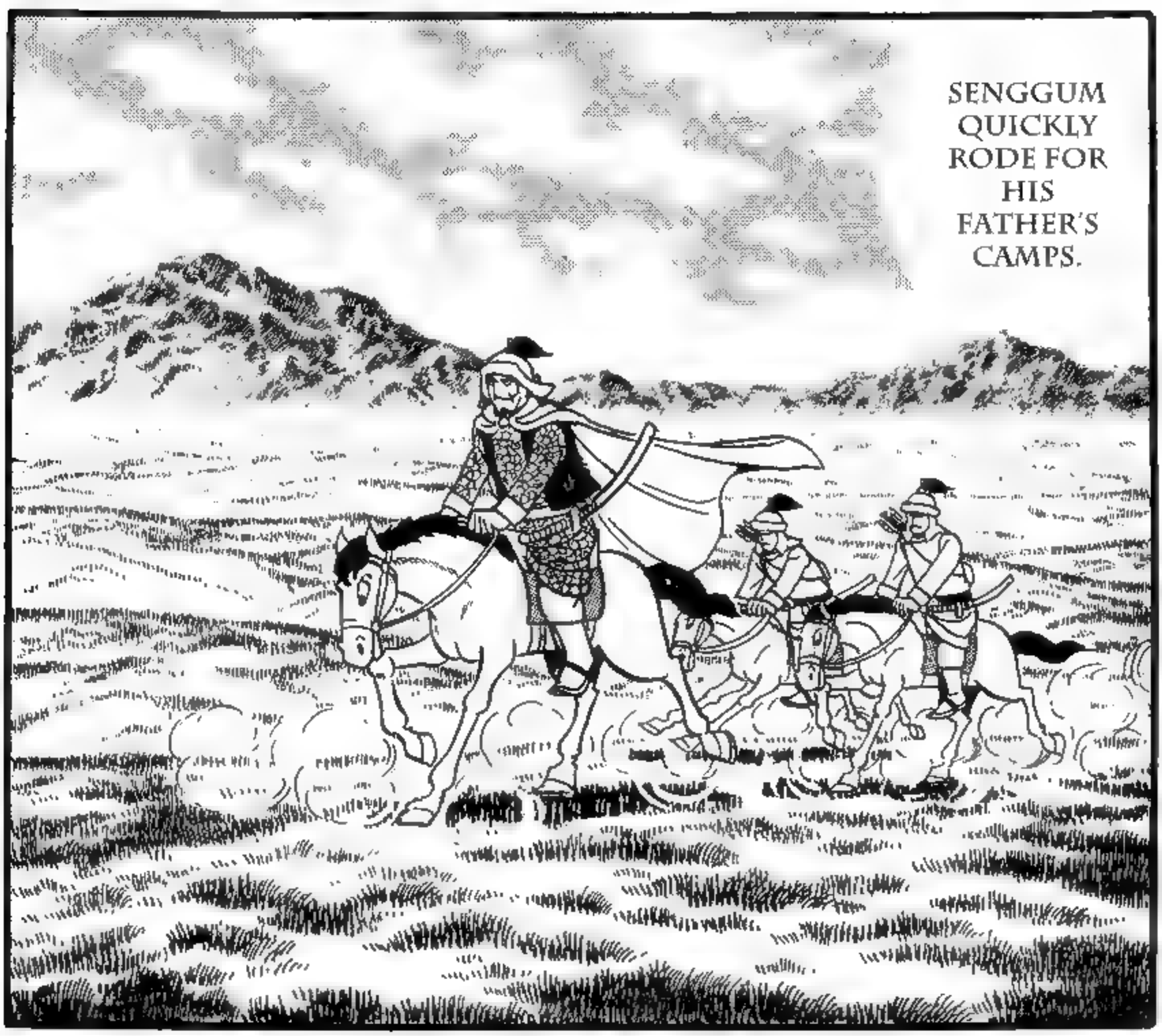
HMM... YES, THAT SOUNDS LIKE IT'LL WORK.

HMM...

WITH THEIR KHAN DEAD, THE MONGOLS WILL PANIC AND BECOME EASY PREY FOR OUR COMBINED ARMIES. THAT IS HOW YOU WILL BECOME THE ONE TRUE KHAN OF THE STEPPE.

YES, THAT'S A BRILLIANT PLAN. THE MONGOLS WILL SOON BE NO MORE!


OF COURSE. WHY ELSE WOULD I HAVE COME?
I WILL GO AND CONVINCE FATHER. I HOPE YOU WILL PLEDGE ME YOUR FULL SUPPORT IN THIS PLOT.


SENGGUM QUICKLY RODE FOR HIS FATHER'S CAMPS.

TEMUCHIN'S LUCK DRAWS SHORT AND TOGHRUL'S LIFE NEARS ITS END, LEAVING SENGGUM AS THE NEXT KEREIT KHAN...

WHAT A SIMPLETON...

OUTWITTING THAT SIMPLETON WILL BE ONLY TOO EASY. AT LONG LAST, I WILL BE THE SUPREME KHAN OF THE STEPPE!

TOGHRUL'S
CAMPS

WHAT!? ASSASSINATE TEMUCHIN BY LURING HIM TO A FAKE WEDDING CEREMONY!?

AND TEMUCHIN AGREED TO BE YOUR SON AND ACCEPT THE MARRIAGE TIES SO THAT HE CAN LEGITIMATELY CLAIM YOUR THRONE, FATHER.

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND!? I HAVE SWORN TO BE TEMUCHIN'S FATHER!

JAMUKA? THAT CUNNING BRAT'S GOT A SILVER-TONGUE. YOU SHOULD NOT TRUST HIM.

JAMUKA ALSO BELIEVES THE SAME.

DID YOU ALREADY FORGET HOW TEMUCHIN CAME TO OUR RESCUE? HOW HE SAVED YOU FROM CERTAIN DEATH!? THAT MAN WILL NOT TURN ON US AS LONG AS WE DO NOT TURN ON HIM!

FATHER, YOU KNOW JUST AS WELL THAT THERE ARE NO PERMANENT ALLIES IN THE DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD THAT IS THE STEPPE. THE ONLY REASON YOU'VE CHOSEN TO STAY AS TEMUCHIN'S ALLY IS BECAUSE YOU FEAR HIS STRENGTH, IS IT NOT?

OR HAD THE NAIMANS PURSUED TEMUCHIN INSTEAD OF US ON THAT DAY, WOULD YOU HAVE COME TO HIS RESCUE? IF YOU TRULY VALUED TEMUCHIN AS AN ALLY, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO MY PLAN THEN.

AND ARE YOU REALLY FINE WITH THAT, FATHER?

IT'S TO MAKE UP FOR THAT VERY MISTAKE THAT I'VE SWORN TO BE HIS FATHER AND NOW SEEK MARRIAGE TIES!

JUST WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE KEREITS AFTER YOUR PASSING? YOU SHOULD KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE JUST HOW BLOODY FAMILY FEUDS CAN BE.

THE VERY FATE OF THE KEREITS IS AT STAKE, FATHER! DOES THAT MEAN SO LITTLE TO YOU!?

BUT TO LURE A LONG-STANDING ALLY INTO SUCH A HEINOUS TRAP WILL ONLY DRAW CONDEMNATION FROM THE HEAVENS. I CANNOT AGREE TO IT!

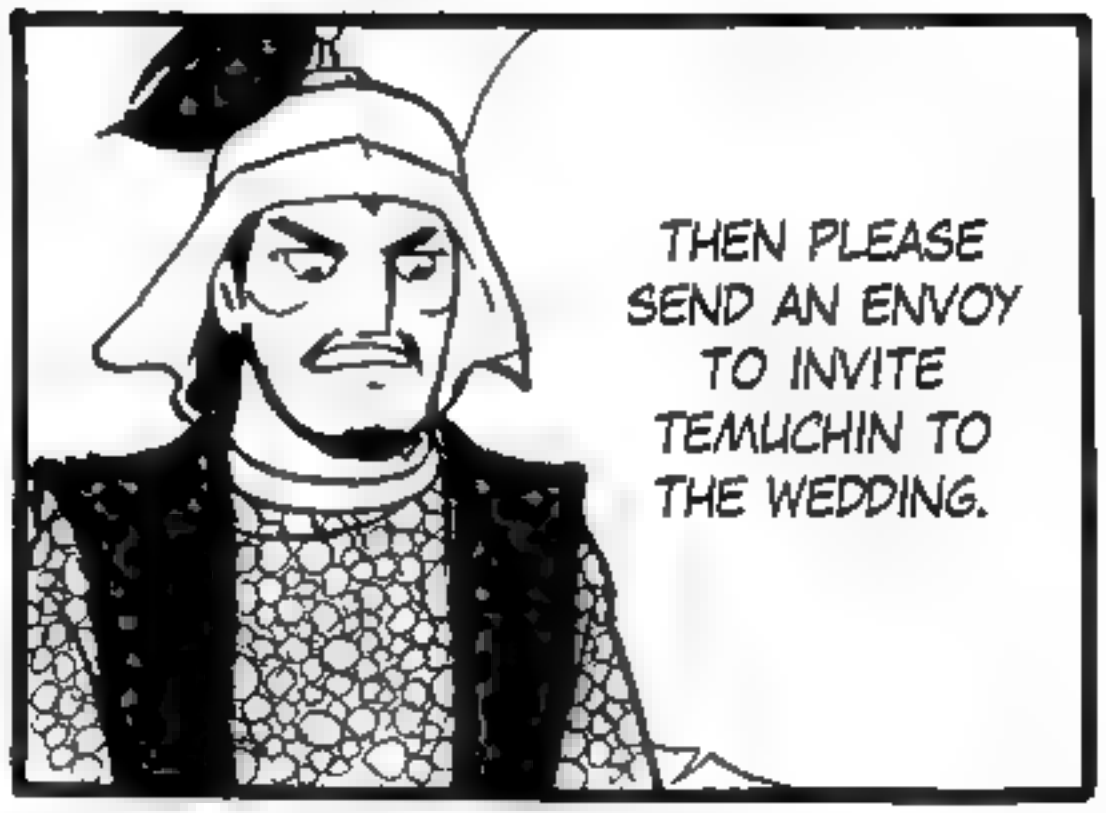
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO HOLD OUR KHANATE TOGETHER AFTER YOU INCREASE TEMUCHIN'S INFLUENCE AND EVEN GIVE HIM A LEGITIMATE CLAIM TO THE THRONE? DO YOU NOT SEE THAT THE ONLY WAY THE KEREITS CAN SURVIVE IN THE NEXT GENERATION IS IF TEMUCHIN IS DEALT WITH NOW!?

NO, WAIT!

EVEN IF THE HEAVENS DISAPPROVE, IT IS A PARENT'S DUTY TO SECURE THE SAFETY AND HAPPINESS OF HIS CHILDREN.

IF YOU ARE THAT FIRMLY SET ON THIS PLAN... DO AS YOU WILL.

Y-YES...


THEN PLEASE SEND AN ENVOY TO INVITE TEMUCHIN TO THE WEDDING.

I HOPE SO, SENGGUM...
DO NOT WORRY, FATHER. I ONLY HAVE OUR TRIBE'S BEST INTERESTS AT HEART. I WILL NOT FAIL YOU NOR OUR PEOPLE.

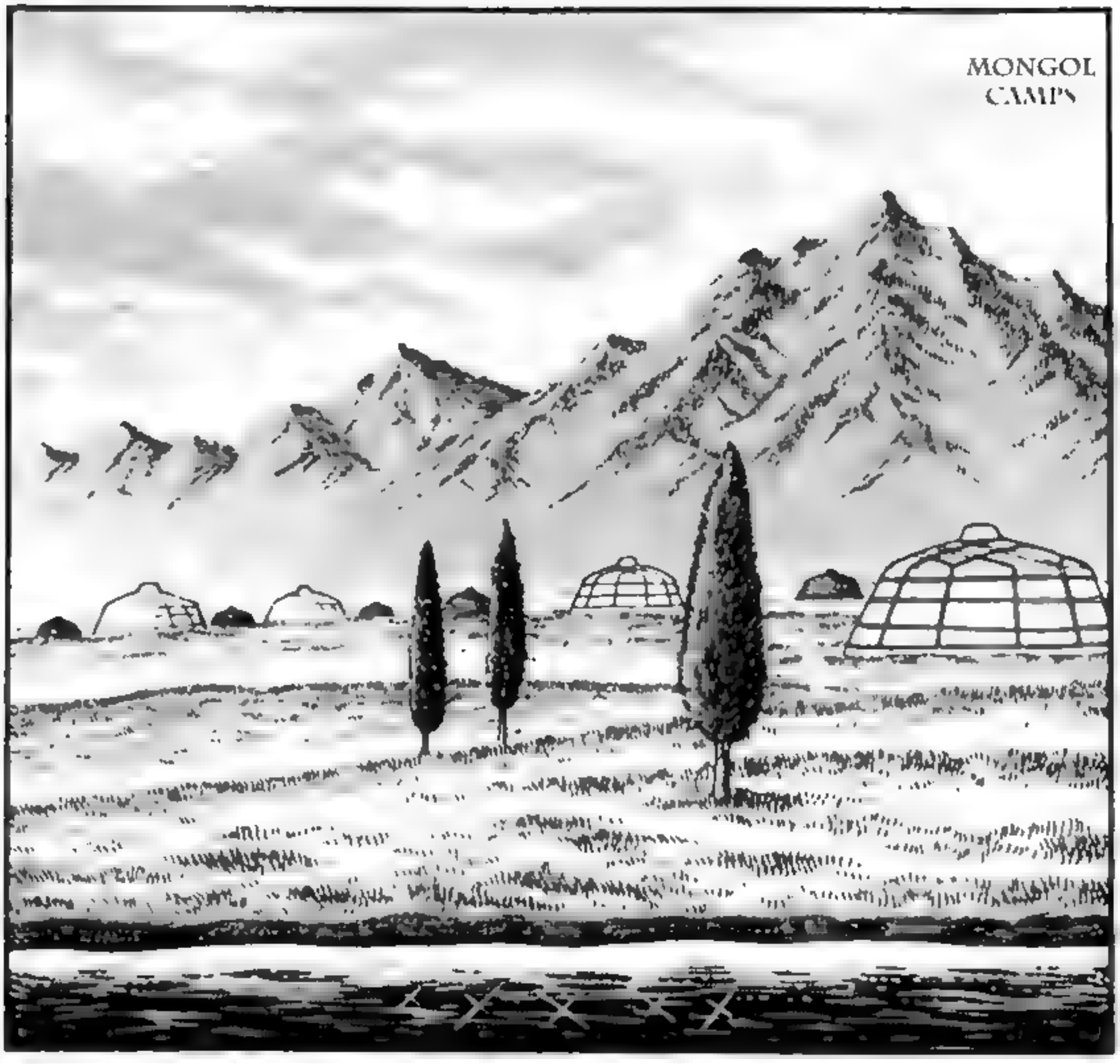
THE FANGS OF THE ONCE FEARED STEPPE WOLF HAD DECAYED. TOGHRUL WAS NOW BUT A SIMPLE OLD MAN, DOTING ON HIS ONE AND ONLY SON.

AS TOGHRUI'S ENVOY RODE FOR TEMUCHIN'S CAMPS,

SENGGUM'S MESSENGER RODE TO TELL JAMUKA THAT THE PLAN WAS IN MOTION.

YES, SIR.

WANG KHAN HAS APPROVED THE PLAN? EXCELLENT. TELL SENGGUM I WILL GET MY TROOPS READY.


MONGOL
CAMPS

YES, TO CELEBRATE THE TYING OF BOTH HOUSES.
A SHEEP-NECK FEAST?

YES, SIR.

VERY WELL, TELL WANG KHAN THAT I WILL COME.

IT STRIKES ME AS A LITTLE ODD, KHAN.

BO'ORCHU, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS INVITATION?

I AGREE. THIS IS FAR TOO SUDDEN.

IT'S BEEN QUITE SOME TIME SINCE TOGHRUL INITIALLY PROPOSED THE MARRIAGE, BUT THE MATTER HAD BEEN SHELVED AND WE HEARD NOTHING MORE. AND YET NOW, ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE INVITES MY KHAN TO THE SHEEP-NECK FEAST?

I TOO THINK IT'S A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS BUT REFUSING TO COME MAY PERMANENTLY SOUR OUR RELATIONS.

I DO NOT TRUST TOGHRUL AT ALL, KHAN. I AM AGAINST ATTENDING THIS FEAST.

HMM, I WILL GO CONSULT THE MATTER WITH MOTHER AS WELL.

MOTHER!

YES, WHAT IS IT, MY SON?

YES?

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO DISCUSS.

TOGHRUL HAS INVITED ME OVER FOR A SHEEP-NECK FEAST TO CELEBRATE OUR FUTURE MARRIAGE TIES. I AM CONTEMPLATING ON WHETHER OR NOT TO GO.

WELL... YES...

OH, SO DO YOU HAVE SOME REASON TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF THE INVITATION?

THAT IS WISE. I, TOO, THINK THE OFFER SOUNDS SUSPICIOUS, CONSIDERING HOW LONG THE MARRIAGE TALKS HAVE BEEN STALLED FOR. I DO NOT THINK THE KEREITS ARE KEEN ON TRULY GOING THROUGH WITH THEM, MEANING THAT THIS SUDDEN INVITATION IS NOT AS IT SEEMS ON THE SURFACE.

THEN YOU SHOULD SEND A POLITE REFUSAL ALONG WITH LAVISH GIFTS.

BUT THE KEREITS WILL NOT TAKE KINDLY TO US IF I FLATLY REFUSE TO COME.

YES, MOTHER. YOUR ADVICE IS SOUND.

TELL THEM THAT WITH SPRING SOON APPROACHING, IT IS TIME TO FATTEN UP OUR HORSES WHO'VE MADE IT THROUGH ANOTHER WINTER.

THUS, TEMUCHIN SENT TWO MONGOL MESSENGERS WITH MANY LAVISH GIFTS

KEREIT CAMPS

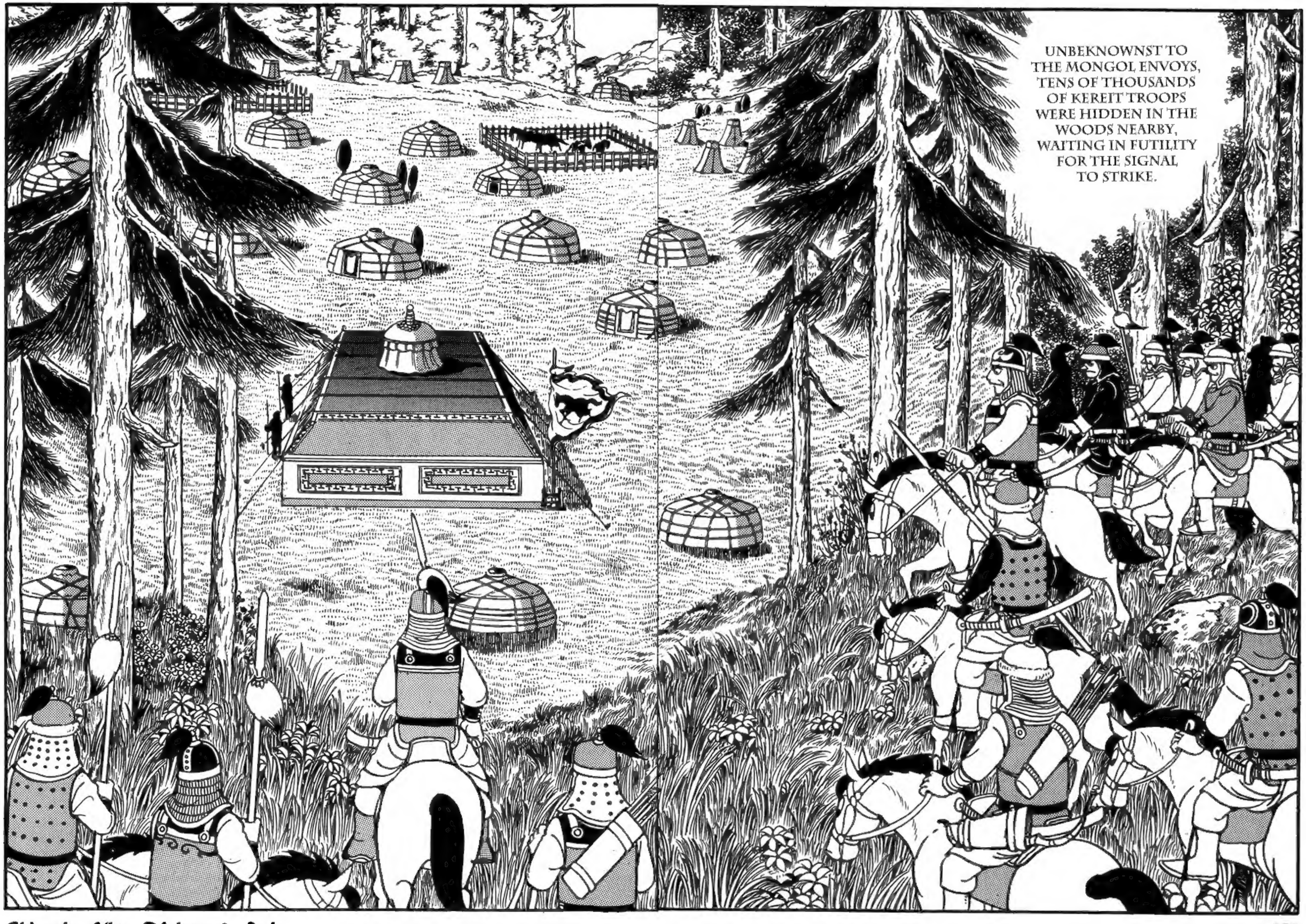
MY KHAN SENDS HIS APOLOGIZES, BUT NOW IS A VERY BUSY TIME FOR THE MONGOLS, AS OUR LARGE HERD OF HORSES NEED TO BE FED AFTER THE SAFE PASSAGE OF WINTER.

WHY HAS TEMUCHIN HIMSELF NOT COME?

HE MUST HAVE REALIZED OUR INTENT...
I SEE... MY APOLOGIES FOR HOLDING THE FEAST AT SUCH A BUSY TIME FOR HIM.
AS SUCH, HE HAS COMMANDED US TO ATTEND THE SHEEP-NECK FEAST ON HIS BEHALF.
AH, I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL.
HE SENDS YOU THESE GIFTS TO MAKE UP FOR HIS ABSENCE.

AND SO THE FEAST WAS HELD WITH THE TWO MONGOL REPRESENTATIVES IN TEMUCHIN'S STEAD.

SENGGUM COULD ONLY BITTERLY SWALLOW DOWN HIS GLASS OF WINE.


UNBEKNOWNST TO THE MONGOL ENVOYS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF KEREIT TROOPS WERE HIDDEN IN THE WOODS NEARBY, WAITING IN FUTILITY FOR THE SIGNAL TO STRIKE.